

Bargain might benefit Sofia



Print unions offered plant by Murdoch

News International last night offered the print unions a unique deal to settle the Wapping dispute... The package offered includes 60 newspaper printing presses units, computerized typesetting equipment...



Aintree's first lady, Caroline Beasley, riding Eliogarty, takes the final fence in the Foxhounds Chase on her way to becoming the first woman to ride a winner over the formidable Grand National fences. Racing, pages 36-37 (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

£50m bets forecast for the National

The Grand National, the world's biggest and toughest horse race which attracts more razzmatazz than any other on the calendar, should have broken new ground by the time of the "off" today.

Kinnock threat of mass purge for Militant activists

Mr Neil Kinnock is threatening a head-on challenge to the Labour left with concerted plans for a mass purge of Militant Tendency supporters and other Trotskyists from the party ranks.

New bids swell City takeover total by £2bn

Takeover activity in the City of London reached almost unprecedented levels yesterday when three bids worth a total of £2 billion were proposed or launched. Lloyds Bank angered its international rival, Standard Chartered, by suggesting a £1.2 billion merger and Hillsdown Holdings, a fast-growing foods company, brought to a head months of speculation over the future of the S&W Berisford commodity trading and sugar group...

Next week

MONDAY Merger mania As Woolworths and Dixons begin the latest in a long line of furious take-over battles, a three-part series examines the buy-out phenomenon and explains how the game is played, what are the stakes and who really wins. Living in the shadow Edna Healey talks about the wives of famous men.

Schools review 'to avert job society'

Unless Britain's education service improved, the Government might have to consider introducing a national system, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister of State for Education and Science, said yesterday. He added that if the organization of education did not improve it risked creating a "job society" and an impoverished culture.

Portfolio

There is £22,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today - £20,000 in the weekly contest and £2,000 in the daily. Yesterday's daily prize of £2,000 was shared between five readers, each receiving £400. They are Mrs M. Lowry, of Cranleigh, Surrey; Mr G.F. Edwards, of Virginia Water, Surrey; Mr M. Barrett, of London NW8; Mrs M.M. Scher, of Swaffham, Norfolk; and Mrs G. Hall, of Farnhead, Warrington. Portfolio lists, pages 20, 24. Stocks boom Stock markets again hit new highs this week, despite uncertainties about the price of oil. But will the boom continue? Family Money, pages 25-34. Contra boost The US plans to send military advisers to the Nicaraguan Contras if, as now appears more likely, President Reagan wins Congress backing to aid the rebels. Page 5.

Polish visit cancelled

A planned visit to London by Mr Marian Orzechowski, the Polish Foreign Minister, later this month has been called off because Mrs Thatcher refused to meet him. The visit, which would have been in return for the one which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, made to Warsaw. Normally a visiting foreign minister will be received only

Franc set to drop after EMS talks

European finance ministers assembled in the Dutch holiday village of Ootmarsum last night to fix the first major realignment of currencies within the European Monetary System for over three years. This is expected to result in a substantial devaluation of the French franc against the mark.

Paint protest on nuclear cargo ships

Greenpeace yesterday claimed a "successful" protest against ships carrying spent nuclear fuel in Barrow docks, Cumbria. The environment pressure group said local volunteers approached two nuclear cargo ships in inflatable dinghies and painted on their sides the word "Stop" and the international radiation symbol. A banner was also fixed to each ship saying "Help Greenpeace stop nuclear cargoes". One volunteer was sent flying into the water by a ship fireboat. Greenpeace said.

Israel demands access to file on Waldheim

New York - The Israeli Government yesterday officially requested access to a secret United Nations file on the Second World War activities of Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General alleged to have been an intelligence officer in the German Army and to have been involved in operations against the Greek resistance and Yugoslav partisans (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes). The file is one of 40,000 compiled by the UN War Crimes Commission between 1943 and 1948. The Israeli request came after the UN had made it clear that only governments could see the documents, which several Jewish organizations had said should be made public. Diplomatic sources said that Israel would have preferred to wait until after next month's Austrian elections, in which Dr Waldheim is a presidential candidate, before making the request. Waldheim denial, page 5.

TWA suspect may have tried before

Italian security authorities suspect that May Elias Mansur, the woman believed to have planted the bomb that killed four people on board the TWA airliner this week, tried to blow up an Italian airliner in December 1983. The incident involved an Alitalia Airbus flying from Istanbul to Rome. Turkish police discovered that one passenger had checked in but had not boarded the aircraft. All the luggage was examined, and a carton of cigarettes stuffed with explosives was found in an unclaimed suitcase. Staff at the check-in desk gave a description of the woman, who was later reported to be connected with the Abu Nidal extremist group. The description was being compared yesterday with that given by passengers who had travelled next to Ms Mansur on Wednesday's TWA Boeing 727 flight from Cairo to Athens when, police believe, the same woman planted a plastic bomb which exploded on the Rome to Athens flight about eight hours after she got off the plane. According to eyewitnesses, the woman was aged about 30 and had a slight limp. She claimed she did not speak any language but Arabic. She is believed to be a Palestinian born in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. She was carrying a Jordanian passport in the false name of Mansur. A description of a woman resembling Ms Mansur was in the possession of the Egyptian police before she even boarded the plane. She was checked so carefully by security officials at Cairo airport that she was the last to be allowed on board. Ms Mansur is believed to have placed plastic explosives in a life preserver under seat 10F on the Cairo to Athens flight. After stopping in the transit lounge at Athens airport, she boarded a Middle East Airlines flight for Beirut. She was identified through her airline ticket to Beirut. According to unconfirmed reports from Rome, passengers on the Cairo to Athens flight said the woman in seat 10F had kept her tray table down throughout the flight, probably to conceal her actions. Bombs aftermath, page 5.

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WHY MURDER? RUTH RENDELL writes as BARBARA VINE. A DARK-ADAPTED EYE. The fictitious story of Vera Hillyard, one of the last women to be hanged in England. On sale now £9.95 Viking Fiction.

Protestant churchmen join condemnation of 'loyalist' attacks

Protestant church leaders in Northern Ireland yesterday joined the growing chorus condemning "loyalist" attacks on the Royal Ulster Constabulary after officers and their families suffered a fourth night of intimidation.

The four Church of Ireland bishops in the province condemned the spate of attacks on the police and sectarian attacks on the homes of Roman Catholics. They expressed utter revulsion at the incidents.

And the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Dr Robert Dickinson, said the attacks were "cruel, wrong and dangerous".

"However unjust and unwise the decisions of those in authority may be felt to be, it is totally wrong to victimize those who are obliged to implement such decisions in fulfilment of their duty to uphold the law," he said.

Senior officers of the RUC

From Richard Ford, Belfast

four other people are helping police in connection with petrol bomb attacks on the homes of four officers in the same area on Wednesday.

Two men are being questioned in Ballymena after a petrol bomb attack on the home of a Roman Catholic family. An imitation firearm, woollen mask, hooded combat jacket and glove were found in the back of a car stopped near the attack.

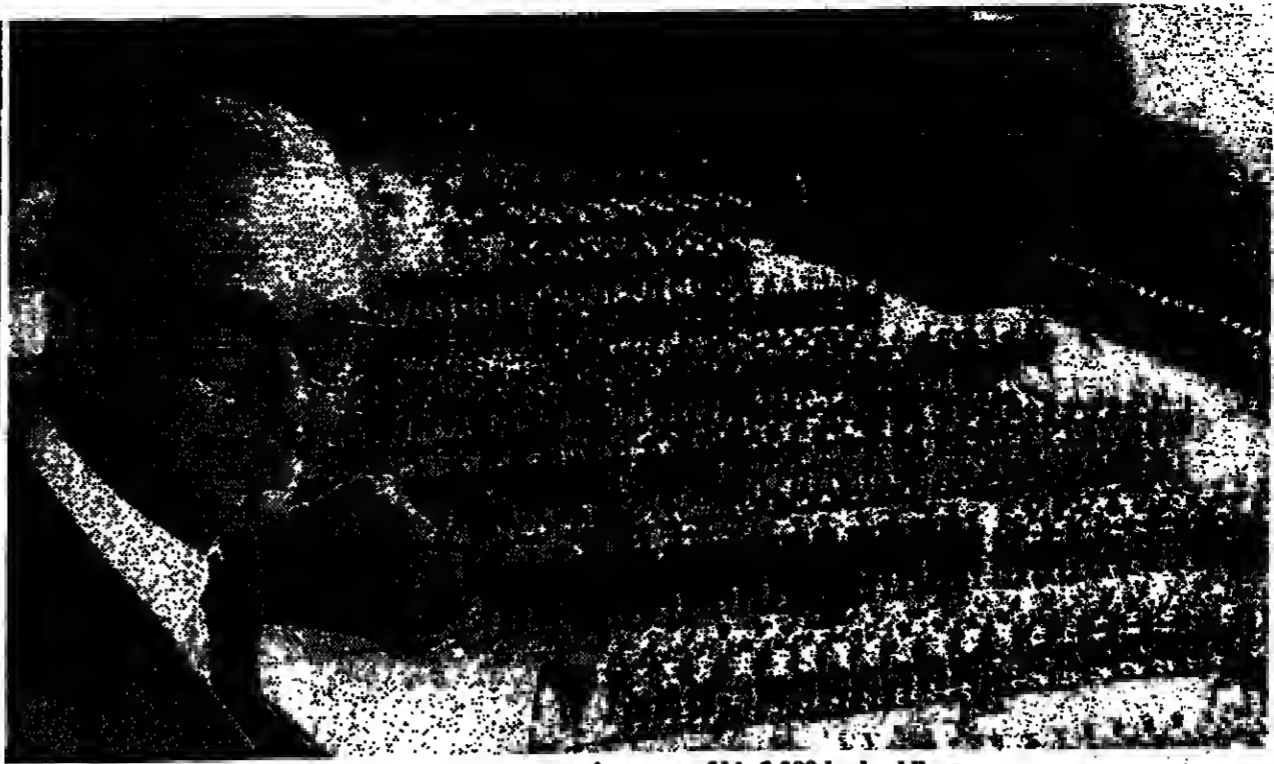
The Irish National Liberation Army bombed the Newry and Mourne council offices in Newry, Co Down, early yesterday, causing extensive damage to the building.

The RUC said last night that since March 3, the loyalist day of action, 68 police families had been intimidated with 45 of the incidents occurring since Easter Sunday when Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, banned the Apprentice Boys parade in Portadown.

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Mr George Palmer inspecting some of his 2,000 lead soldiers.

Glory of the Raj on show

The glory of the Raj will be recreated when one of the country's largest collections of lead soldiers goes on public display for the first time in Britain next week.

More than 2,000 figures are used for the recreation of the "Delhi Durbar", when the newly crowned George V was presented to India for the first time as Emperor King.

It is the work of Mr George Palmer, aged 66, a model enthusiast and collector, and goes on display to the public for six months from tomorrow at Sledmere House, near Bridlington, North Yorkshire.

Mr Palmer has spent more than six months working on the 30ft long display. It has been reconstructed from original photographs of the ceremony and the records.

The display is being mounted in aid of the Children's Society. Previously unseen in this country, the collection of lead soldiers many dating from the turn of the century attracted thousands of visitors when it was shown on New York's Fifth Avenue during the Queen's Silver Jubilee and Australia at the time of the Commonwealth Games.

However, Mr Palmer said: "Because of the size of the display we have been unable to show all the troops taking part.

GCSE boycott by union 'impossible'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday described the decision of the biggest teachers' union to boycott the September introduction of the new GCSE examination as "totally impossible".

The National Union of Teachers resolved this week to continue teaching O level and CSE courses this autumn in defiance of the Government's plan to introduce the GCSE for 16-year-olds.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, responded angrily to Sir Keith's comments. He said: "What all three teacher union conferences have demonstrated this week is that, if anything, the grassroots membership of the NUT, the NAS/UWT and the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association want to go even further than their executives."

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, yesterday rejected selective "Crown schools", vouchers and greater centralization of power as solutions to the crisis in education (George Hill writes).

Speaking in York at the annual conference of the Association of Parent-Teacher Associations, he said that conflict in schools was likely to continue. He reaffirmed his party's commitment to local discretion within a framework designed to safeguard standards.

Both unions say they are taking action because the GCSE is inadequately funded and is being introduced hastily.

Sir Keith said yesterday: "Most teachers are dedicated

Motorists face MOT crisis

Thousands of motorists throughout Britain face having to keep their vehicles off the road for two weeks because garages have run out of MOT certificates.

The Department of Transport admitted yesterday that staff at the new centralized Goods Vehicle Centre in Swansea had underestimated the number of blank forms needed by garages.

The Swansea centre was established two months ago as a cost-cutting measure to replace nine regional MOT distribution centres. Four extra staff have since been drafted in to deal with a three-week backlog of orders for the forms.

"But the situation should be normal in a fortnight. Like any new centre, there are initial problems, and in this case, staff underestimated the scale of the task," a transport department spokesman said.

He added that in emergency cases garages should apply to the 51 Heavy Goods Vehicles Testing Centres.

The department said some garages are not affected. However, the Motor Agents Association, which represents garages throughout Britain, described the department bungle as a "debacle of crisis proportion".

More risk for whale population

By Patricia Clough

International efforts to protect whales are in serious danger of collapse, threatening the eventual extinction of the species, a leading whale expert said yesterday.

At the same time, new scientific research from Norway had shown that the ability of the seriously-depleted whale population to regenerate itself was twice as bad as was thought when the current five-year international moratorium was declared. Dr Roger Payne, the World Wildlife Fund's whale research scientist, said.

Dr Payne, who will be subject of a *Naturewatch* programme on ITV on Monday evening, said that the moratorium would not win the battle.

He said that pressure was being applied to four Nordic countries to pull out of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Norway has already declared, along with the Soviet Union and Japan, that it will not adhere to the moratorium.

Granddaughter of Stalin to return

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Home Office has agreed to grant a visa to Josef Stalin's granddaughter, Miss Olga Peters, aged 14, to enable her to return to boarding school in Britain after two years in the Soviet Union.

However, she will not be accompanied by her mother, Miss Svetlana Alliluyeva, who took her daughter with her when she returned to the Soviet Union in 1984. No visa application for her had been received, a Home Office spokesman said yesterday.

Miss Peters, who was born in the United States, is the daughter of Mr William Peters, a US architect, Miss Alliluyeva's fourth husband. She will return to the Friends' School at Saffron Walden, Essex, where she studied for 18 months, when the summer term begins next weekend.

Mr Nicholas Hawksley, the school bursar, said yesterday: "When her mother removed her two years ago she asked the head, Dr John Woods,

Brittan attack on hysteria over BL

By George Hill

Student Tory opposition to the sale of BL to General Motors had bordered on hysteria and rickety debating, true patriots, Mr Leon Brittan said yesterday.

He called for his party to prepare for the next election without letting itself be "bounced and bullied" by emotionalism into being diverted from right and practical policies.

"No government could possibly have ignored the upsurge of protest," he told the Federation of Conservative Students in Scarborough. "But that does not mean that the protests were justified, or that those who fomented them served their country well."

"If the choice is between a viable concern, operating in Britain, to the benefit of the British people, but owned by GM, and a concern that is constantly in jeopardy, a perpetual drain on the taxpayer, insecure and not viable, then there can be no doubt whatsoever that it is in the national interest to choose the viable route."

Mr Brittan's resignation as trade and industry secretary in January came after accusations that he had been too ready to allow the Westland helicopter company to fall under American control.

In an apparent reference to the aggressive campaigning favoured by Mr Norman Tebbit as well as by the Conservative students themselves, Mr Brittan warned against "adopting a harsh, or destructive or unnecessarily contentious tone" in the coming election.

Two bidders for Land Rover, Mr "Tiny" Rowland of Lomro, and Dr David Andrews, head of the management buy-out team, visited the company's factory at Solihull, Birmingham, yesterday. They have until April 15 to revise their bids.

Bickering for second place

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

With five days left before the south-west London by-election at Fulham, Alliance and Conservative candidates are engaged in a bitter battle over who can best stop Labour winning.

Both parties acknowledge that Mr Nick Raynsford, for Labour, remains out in the lead. But while Mr Roger Liddle, for the Alliance, and Mr Matthew Carrington, the Tory candidate, insist they can still win, in practice they appear to be fighting over who will finish second.

Mr Carrington, who can count on the support of a substantial block of unwavering Conservatives, unofficially labelled by one observer as the Hooray Henry set, yesterday issued a new leaflet explaining "why the SDP want Labour to win".

Mr Liddle, who hopes to have 1,000 Alliance supporters working in the south-west London constituency this weekend, yesterday highlighted the "irrelevance" of the Tory candidate.

"The real contest is between ourselves and the Labour candidate," Mr Liddle added.

Bound over

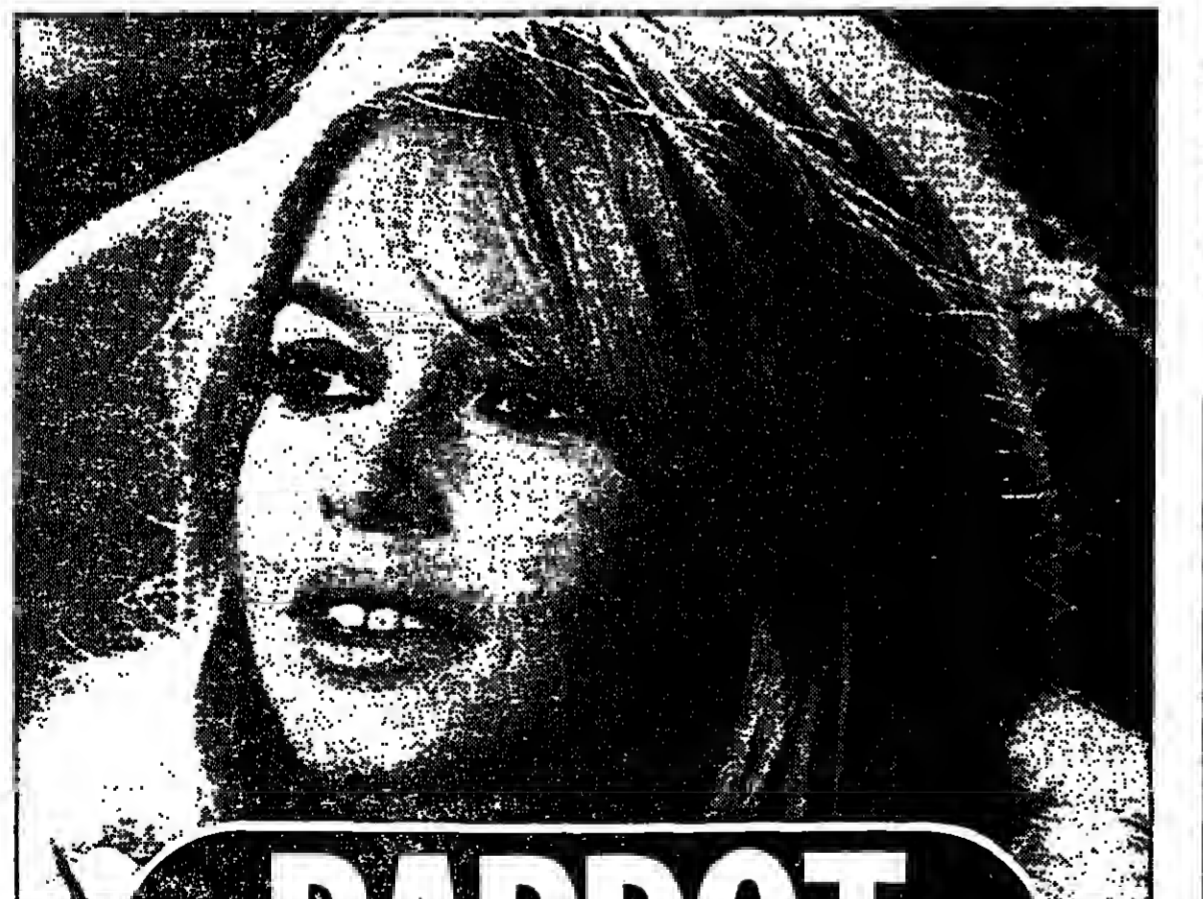
Geoffrey Dixon, a Bexley councillor, was yesterday bound over in the sum of £50 to keep the peace for a year after police offered no evidence on allegations of his using insulting words and behaviour and obstruction outside the News International plant at Wapping on March 8. Dixon, of Sidcup, Kent, denied both offences.

Correction

Cardinal Wolsey died while under arrest for treason, and was not executed as stated on Tuesday.

Exchange Rates: The Times overseas rates are: £1 = 2.00 Canadian \$; 2.00 US Dollars; 1.00 Australian \$; 1.00 New Zealand \$; 1.00 Hong Kong \$; 1.00 Singapore \$; 1.00 Taiwan \$; 1.00 South Korea \$; 1.00 Thailand \$; 1.00 Malaysia \$; 1.00 Indonesia \$; 1.00 Philippines \$; 1.00 Brunei \$; 1.00 East Germany \$; 1.00 West Germany \$; 1.00 Switzerland \$; 1.00 Japan \$; 1.00 South Africa \$; 1.00 Hong Kong \$; 1.00 Singapore \$; 1.00 Taiwan \$; 1.00 South Korea \$; 1.00 Thailand \$; 1.00 Malaysia \$; 1.00 Indonesia \$; 1.00 Philippines \$; 1.00 Brunei \$; 1.00 East Germany \$; 1.00 West Germany \$; 1.00 Switzerland \$; 1.00 Japan \$; 1.00 South Africa \$.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
ALL THAT'S BEST IN BRITISH JOURNALISM
88 PAGES PLUS COLOUR MAGAZINE



BARDOT
CREATED BY GOD AND ROGER VADIM

OIL: \$10 that shook the world
MAGAZINE: snapping back at the Japanese
BUSINESS: the bids keep rolling in
PLUS: FIVE PAGES OF SPORT

Sunday isn't Sunday without the Sunday Times

Man in the news

Predator with a low profile

By Alison Eadie

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, emerged this week as the man who believes he is best qualified to revive the Woolworth retail chain.

In an ambitious £1,800 million bid for Woolworth Holdings, Mr Kalms laid claim to 14.4 million square feet of selling space, which makes Woolies the biggest British retailer in terms of floor space, ahead of Marks & Spencer with 9.8 million square feet.

In spite of his ambition, his impressive track record at Dixons, and his strong following in the City, Mr Kalms is hardly a household name. Mr Terence Conran, of Habitat-Mothercare and now British Home Stores, Mr Ralph Halpern, of Burton and Debenhams, and Sir Philip Harris, of Harris Queensway, are all far better known.

The reason is that Mr Kalms does not believe in personality cults. He said yesterday that Dixons was successful because it had top rate management. "I'm a good organizer. A lot of people in the company push for expansion. They push and I pull."

Mr Kalms, aged 54, built up Dixons on the foundation of his father's north London photographic studio, which he joined in 1948. With its head office still in Edgware, he lives close by in Stanmore, Middlesex.

Since going public in 1962 with 16 photographic shops and an annual profit of £160,000, the business has continued to expand. Dixons Group now has 830 shops and 1.5 million square feet of selling space. Just over 500 shops came from Currys, the rival electrical goods retailer, which it took over in Decem-

ber 1984 in an acrimonious £250 million battle.

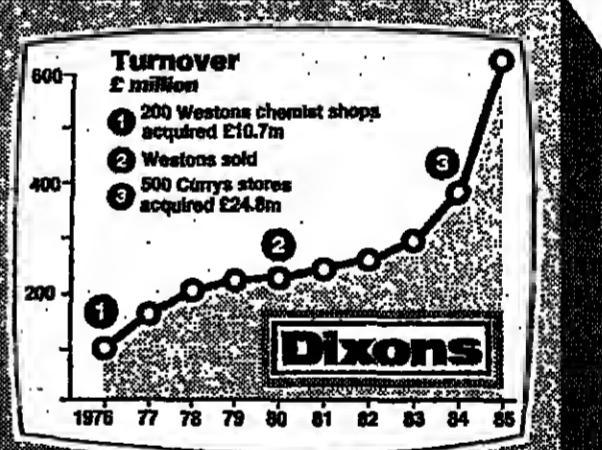
The speed and success of the Currys integration, combined with Dixons' continued profit growth and market share gain, has ensured Mr Kalms of a devoted following in the City. Instead of its shares falling, the news of a huge bid which would more than double its market capitalization saw prices shoot up.

Mr Kalms' success has had its material rewards, with a 72 per cent rise in salary in 1984-85 to £208,000. He remains a retailer to the core and does not believe in diversifying.

He resigned from being a "name" at Lloyds some years ago because he did not understand the insurance business and had no influence over the way his affairs were run. "I like to be in charge of my own destiny," he said.

Retail analysts agree on the shrewdness of the timing of his Woolworth bid. The view is that the new management at Woolworth has made great strides in the last three-and-a-half years, but the changes have yet to feed through.

Woolworth team, page 21



Science Report

Discoveries of primitive algae

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Part of the textbooks of plant and animal biology need rewriting, after two separate lines of research.

Both discoveries come from teams of biologists who have studied some of the simplest forms of plants and micro-organisms which thrive in water. One group has found that six common species of plant-like freshwater organism for microbiology at the University of Amsterdam, and her colleagues, have for the first time found swimming freely at these particular varieties of primitive sort of algae named plankton get their energy and Prochloron. It was recovered carbon from photosynthesis from the Loosdrecht lakes of The Netherlands, and it is a simpler type of simple organism as Dinobryon.

Until now the organism was a rarity. Only symbiotic forms were found with Prochloron living on the surface of a sedentary sponge-like animal.

Prochloron was reluctant to be parted from its host for growing in the laboratory. So studies of the organism have meant visiting a sun-drenched beach in Baja.

The fascination lies in the part these primitive objects may have played in the early stages of evolution. They may provide one of the missing links in the evolutionary tree from single cell to complex organisms. It is possible that Prochloron-type organisms were the building blocks of more elaborate cells.

Now there is an abundant source from temperate waters. It should be possible to grow the organism in the laboratory.

But the Dinobryons have raised additional questions by showing that when there is insufficient sunlight for photosynthesis they can digest bacteria.

السنة هي الجسد

New studies on cancer and the pill found to be 'reassuring to women'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The latest evidence on suspected links between oral contraceptives and breast cancer is "enormously reassuring" to women, a leading cancer researcher said yesterday.

Five scientific studies involving thousands of women since 1979 showed no evidence of harm to those aged over 25 who had been taking the pill for as long as 15 years.

Pensions 'at 55 for farmers'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The EEC was actively considering paying retirement pensions to farmers at the age of 55, a conference at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester was told yesterday.

Police anti-drugs plan for London

By Stewart Tendler

New Scotland Yard has submitted plans to the Home Office for a big overhaul of anti-drug policing in London with a much larger central drug squad and specialist units working in a network across the city.

The number of officers in the central squad could be tripled to up to 200, and each of the eight police areas in London would have its own specialized squad providing another 80 to 100 officers.

Blood stains as clue to criminals' identity

By Ronald Faux

Blood stains will soon be as accurate as fingerprints in pinpointing the identity of criminals, a forensic science conference at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, was told yesterday.

Dr Brian Caddy, acting head of the university's forensic science unit, said improved techniques for highly accurate identification of blood groups meant individuals could be identified from a blood stain.

Couple's arson attempt to get another home

A couple who set fire to their home because they disliked having old people for neighbours and wanted to move, were given suspended prison sentences yesterday.

After setting fire to clothing, Pauline Everett, who was seven months pregnant, and Christopher Ledger left their flat for two hours, knowing their elderly neighbours could be in danger if the flames spread, the Central Criminal Court was told.

D'Oyly Carte may reopen with bequest

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which closed in 1982 because of financial difficulties, may be revived through the will of the Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, the last of the musical family associated with the work of Gilbert and Sullivan.

among women who smoke heavily, have had a number of sexual partners, and do not use barrier methods of contraception.

The long-running BBC radio series, *The Archers*, is to have a new editor, Miss Liz Rigbey, aged 29, a former waitress and farming journalist who is six years younger than the programme she will run.

Care order on 'vice' girl, 8, is extended

A care order on a girl aged eight, who is said to have mixed with prostitutes, was extended for a month yesterday.

Groce hearing adjourned

Police Inspector Douglas Lovelock, aged 42, accused of unlawfully wounding Mrs Cherry Groce, had the case adjourned until May 22 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

RAF get bird proof trainers

Cockpit windcreens on the RAF's 170 Hawk jet trainers are being replaced to prevent accidents such as a bird strike that cost a pilot the sight of one eye.

Sergeant is a woman

WRAC Sharon Ley, aged 23, from Dover, has become the first woman sergeant technician in the Royal Corps of Signals after a 12-month course at Caterick, North Yorkshire.

Hurd resists Euro TV move

By Anthony Revins, Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, has decided to resist Common Market Commission plans for harmonization of European television programmes.

The draft directive proposes that each Community country would be obliged to buy 30 per cent of their non-news programmes from other Community countries, with an eventual 60 per cent target of European origin.



Miss Rigbey, new producer of *The Archers* (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

may reflect agricultural topics more than it has done in recent years.

Miss Rigbey takes over the Radio 4 programme on May 1 when the editor, Mr William Sanetimm, leaves to become a senior soap opera producer with Central TV which produces *Crossroads*.

White wine Russian roulette

Buying white wines at under £2.50 a bottle is like playing Russian roulette, according to the Consumers' Association newsletter *Which? Wine Monthly*, published today (Robin Young writes).

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Woman of 86 killed for a few pounds

Clara Kirton, a great-grandmother, aged 86, died for a few pounds in "one of the most horrendous and vicious killings" seen by the detective in charge of the case, an inquest at Southwark Coroner's Court heard yesterday.

Professor Hugh Johnson, a pathologist, told the inquest: "This is one of the most brutal and vicious cases I have seen in 30 years." The cause of death was inhalation of blood, injuries to the face and neck and brain injuries.

Cooker wrangle led to gun threat

A man threatened police with air rifles and a harpoon primed to fire after going berserk when gasmen disconnected his cooker, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The Green Paper said: "The question is not whether this objective of the EEC Treaty must be attained, but when and at what stage of integration."

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OUR BOMB

HOW BRITANNIA LEARNED TO LOVE IT

SUNDAY AT 8.15PM

4

AN LWTV PRODUCTION FOR CHANNEL 4

Mother to sue if costs of her case against son's killer are not paid

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The mother who privately prosecuted the drug pusher who killed her son and lost her battle for nearly £13,000 expenses, says she will sue Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, if her costs are not reimbursed.

A grant to her by the Ross McWhirter Memorial Trust, announced yesterday, is for an undisclosed sum. But Mr Norris McWhirter, whose twin, Ross, was murdered by the IRA in 1975, said the grant "is clearly for hundreds rather than thousands of pounds".

Mrs Pauline Williams, aged 45, launched the only private prosecution this century to result in a manslaughter trial after the death of her son, John, aged 19.

Last February, her three-and-a-half-year legal fight resulted in Gary Austin, aged 25, being jailed for 15 months at St

Albans Crown Court. He was found guilty of manslaughter and maliciously administering a noxious substance, the drug palfium, so as to endanger life.

The conviction came after the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, had decided not to prosecute Austin. And it was disclosed on Thursday that Sir Patrick Mayhew, Solicitor General, had twice told Austin in 1983 that he would not be prosecuted for manslaughter because of a lack of evidence.

After the case, Mrs Williams, of Whipperley Ring, Luton, said she was awarded only £3,500 of the £16,500 prosecution costs incurred.

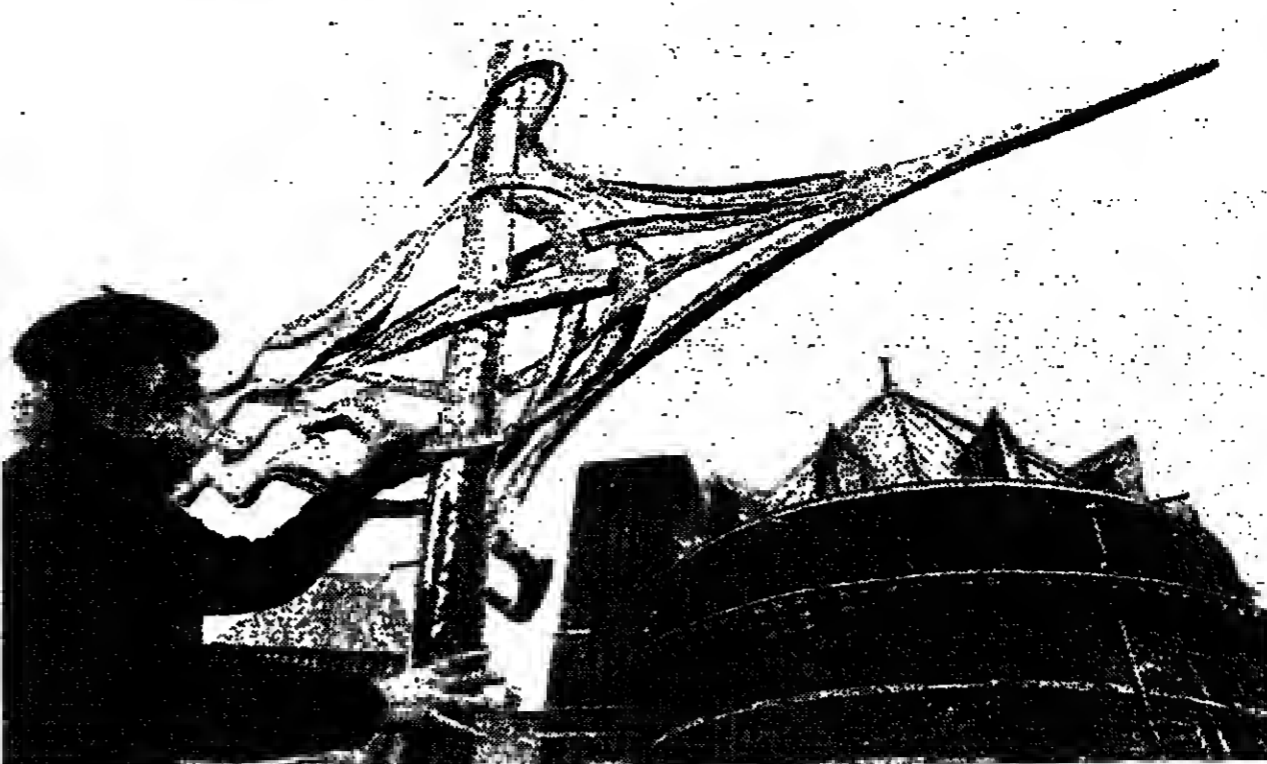
Last month Mrs Williams and her husband received a letter from Mrs Margaret Thatcher in which she said she regretted that the law did not allow a private prosecutor to

be paid costs for preparing the case.

Mrs Williams has written to Lord Hailsham explaining that she will charge £1 an hour for all the work she put into the case. She says people who find themselves in the same position may be deterred from bringing private prosecutions if at the end they cannot claim costs.

Announcing the trust's award yesterday, Mr McWhirter said that Mr and Mrs Williams had been invited to a dinner in the City of London to receive the award from Mrs Rosemary McWhirter, his brother's widow.

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who is president of the memorial trust, said yesterday he regarded the award as "an excellent one".



Antony Robinson, a sculptor, of Stanton upon Hise Heath, Shrewsbury, with one of his hand forged stainless steel swans being placed on the roof of the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

£2m plea in US

American millionaires are to be asked to support an appeal to raise £2 million towards the acquisition of Lord Scarsdale's Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire by the National Trust.

The trust believes the Americans can make a large contribution to raise the money within 12 months.

It was announced last month that the National Heritage

Memorial Fund is contributing £13.5 million towards Kedleston, Lord Scarsdale has made over the property plus £2.5 million and the National Trust has contributed £1 million. This still leaves a £2 million gap.

Kedleston Hall is one of the grandest eighteenth-century houses in England built by Robert Adam for the Curzon family.

Posters appeal

Manchester City Council is to print 2,000 "wanted" posters with an artist's impressions of two men, alleged to be police officers, who are said to have assaulted a former Manchester University student.

Mr Steven Shaw, aged 23, claims that in February he was attacked in Longsight, Manchester, by two men. They punched and kicked him, struck him in the chest with a bottle and burnt his cheek.

Tyra death inquiry delayed by dispute

The inquiry set up by Lambeth council into the death of Tyra Hemy, aged 20 months, has been postponed because of a dispute over the membership of the inquiry team.

The local government workers' union, Naigo, has said it will not co-operate with the inquiry, which was due to start next Monday, unless changes were made to the panel.

It has demanded the inclusion of a practising social worker and the removal of one appointed member because, it claimed, she was also a member of the council's fostering and adoption panel.

Mr Mike Waller, secretary of Naigo's Lambeth council branch, said yesterday: "We are not challenging the integrity of any panel member. But it must be seen to be fair, totally independent and external to the council."

Mr Waller said it was also essential that a social worker with direct experience of child abuse cases was included on the panel.

Naigo is now seeking an early meeting with council leaders aimed at resolving the wrangle. The dead child's father, Andrew Neil, aged 20, was convicted of her murder last July and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Photographic memory traps rapist

A rapist was yesterday ordered to pay £700 compensation to his victim whose "remarkable photographic memory" trapped him.

The cash award was made by Sir James Miskin, QC, Recorder of London, at the Central Criminal Court.

Paul Richards, aged 23, an electrician, of Springfield estate, Clapton, was jailed for seven years when he admitted raping a bank clerk aged 28 at her flat at Kenton, Middlesex, last October. He also admitted burgling her home and six other burglary offences.

Mr Simon Evans, for the prosecution, said: "The woman was able, with her remarkable photographic memory, to recall every detail of his face."

She gave such a good description that a life-like sketch of Richards was circulated and led to his arrest within days.

Count the extra benefits of the Nissan Sunny Spirit. They add up to over £1,400.

The Nissan Sunny GS is no ordinary car. It is a very fully equipped quality saloon that even includes such items as tinted glass and a five-speed gearbox for which you would be charged extra by its major competitors.

Now we have produced the new Sunny Spirit, which is a very special car indeed.

Because we have taken value a stage further and, without increasing the price, added a luxury new interior and many items of equipment which, in the normal way, would cost you over £1,000 to have fitted! There's velour upholstery, a sun-roof, stereo cassette system, and so on.

Nissan Sunny GS equipment includes:

- * 5-speed gearbox (around \$160 extra on Escort L, Astra L, Maestro L, etc)
- * Tinted glass (around \$50 extra on Escort L, Astra L, Maestro L, etc)
- * 2 Interior adjustable door mirrors
- * Interior boot release
- * Quartz analogue clock
- * 4-speed heater etc.

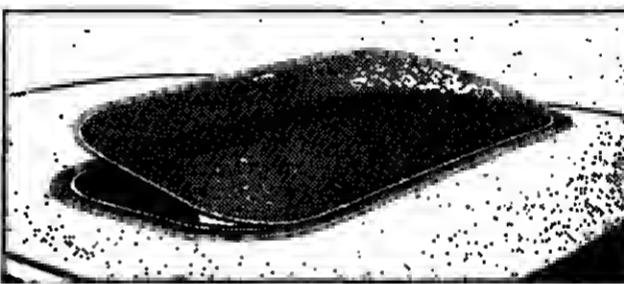
And has a 3-year/100,000 mile warranty for which the others will charge you up to \$229.

Yet the Sunny has a lower price than all three!

Now we've added these features to the Sunny Spirit at no extra cost:

- * Velour upholstery
- * Stereo radio/cassette system
- * Tinted glass sunroof (Britax)
- * Inertia reel rear seat belts
- * Colour keyed door mirrors
- * Aerodynamic wheel trims
- * Body pinstripes and chrome tailpipe

Which would normally cost you \$1,048 to have fitted as extras.



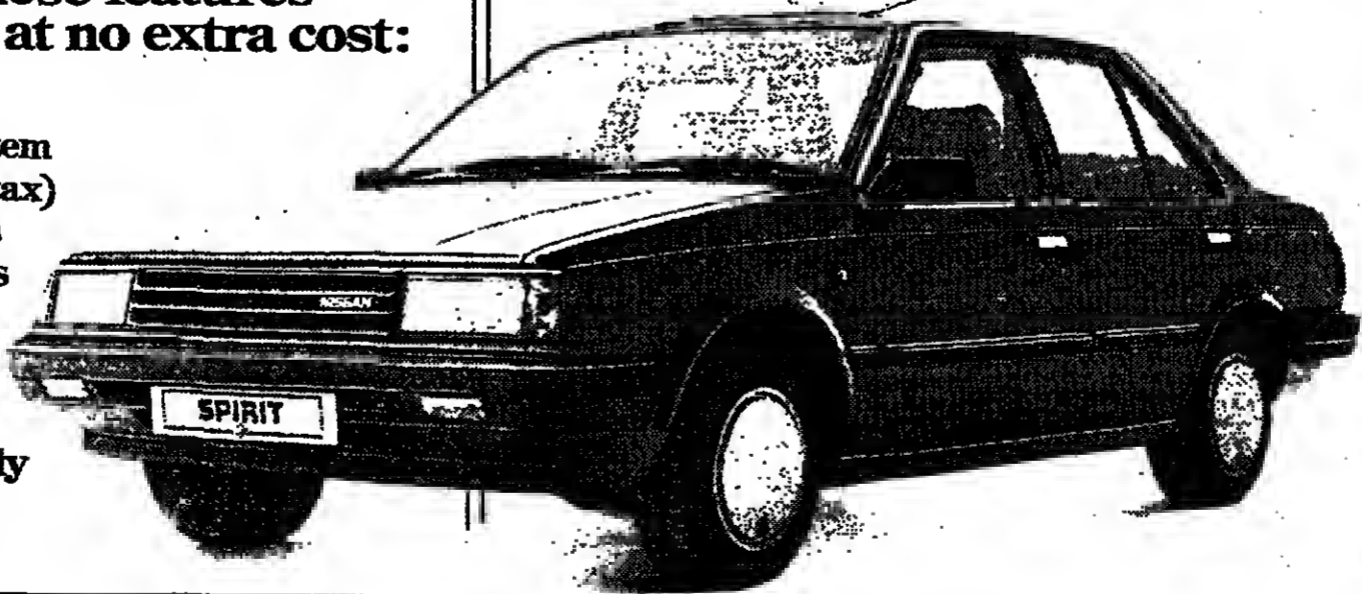
Tilt and remove Britax sun-roof.



Auto replay stereo cassette and radio.

All this extra value and it's a pleasure to drive. The Sunny Spirit gives you genuine performance and economy with the 1.5 litre coupe able to spirit you over 100 mph and the saloon, with the same engine, capable of over 53 mpg.

The new Sunny Spirit range is at your Nissan dealer now - that's the place to get the extra benefit.



Sunny Spirits from £6096.



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Sale room Decorative appeal of Old Masters

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A week before their big spring sale of Old Master paintings, Christie's yesterday tried to find buyers for about 200 lesser quality Old Masters with only modest success. The sale totalled £512,384, but 37 per cent was unsold.

Most of the paintings were estimated in the £2,000 to £20,000 range and bidders demonstrated that, at this sort of price, their main interest lay in decorative appeal.

Religious or mythological paintings, unless they were exceptionally pretty, generally failed to impress buyers. Almost every flower painting was sold, whatever its quality, although quite a few landscapes did not match the occasionally inflated hopes of the sellers.

The top price in the sale was £25,920 (estimate £8,000-£12,000) for an imaginary view of the city of Jerusalem by Moasu Desiderio, a painter of fantastic visionary scenes which are much in vogue. The same price (estimate £10,000-£15,000) was paid for an 8in by 5½in painting on copper attributed to Hendrik Avercamp, which depicts a peasant couple standing on ice wearing elaborate skates. Beyond the frozen water, corpses swing from a gallows.

It was one of three tiny skating scenes on copper bought by the same dealer, all from the same source and attributed to Avercamp. It was also the most attractive, the others selling for £17,280 (estimate £7,000-£10,000) and £7,560 (estimate £7,000-£10,000).

The top price for flowers was £20,520 (estimate £5,000-£8,000) for a still life pair of mixed flowers in sculpted urns, set in Italianate landscapes, by Karel van Vogelaeer. Wildenstein, the international dealers, scooped up an attractive view of Tivoli, attributed by Christie's to "François, Boucher and Studio", at £15,120.

According to the Christie's catalogue, there are three known versions of the painting and only one is considered a fully authentic work by Boucher. Mr Daniel Wildenstein has written a Boucher catalogue and it seems likely that he has a higher opinion of the painting than Christie's.

Next week's sale of Old Master paintings, including Goya's portrait of the "Marquesa de Santa Cruz", which could set a new auction record for a painting, goes on public view at Christie's from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday and from 9.30am to 4.30pm from Monday to Thursday.

English juniors trail in Oakham chess

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Pavel Belstny, of Czechoslovakia, and Csaba Horvath, of Hungary, shared the lead with two points each at the end of round two in the Oakham International Junior Tournament.

Five English players, international masters Stuart Conquest and James Howell, and Neil McDonald, Ian Thomas and Chris Ward, are close behind with one-and-a-half points.

Two Scottish players, international master Mark Condie and Mark Burgess, also have one-and-a-half points.

The tournament, at Oakham School, Rutland, Leicestershire, sponsored by Mr John Jerwood, has produced high-quality play. Matches start at 1 pm daily. A total of 42 players from 23 countries are competing. Other players with one-and-a-half points after two rounds: Klinger (Austria), Marin (Romania), Kuczynski (Poland), Galego (Portugal), Pulkovi (Hungary) and Buckmire (Barbados).

Classical roots run deep in Scotland. The first recorded teaching of classics was at Ayr Academy in 1233. By 1592, there were three universities in Aberdeenshire, but only two in England. In this century, classical education has been a staple diet in the schools and universities of Scotland.

In a paper to a joint meeting of the Classical Association and the Classical Association of Scotland at Glasgow University, Dr G.P. Edwards discussed Latin and Greek in the proud Scottish tradition.

He produced splendid early verses in which Scottish scholars turned such mysteries as the new game of golf into Ovidian elegiacs, or praised a famous Scots professor in iambs.

Classical Association of Scotland does not believe we are hearing the end of it. The instrumentation is changing. But harmonies like these are too good to lose.

Dr Glenys Davies, of Edinburgh University, conducted an enthralling Swann's Cruise of the approaches to the Underworld.

By close study of the iconography of monuments, she shows how some of the ancients used the idea of a journey that the dead took to the afterlife.

It was an odd sort of journey. Sometimes they went by horse, sometimes by chariot. Some went by boat and others by eagle. And flights of angels winged some of them to their rest. Even the ashes in an Etruscan urn were equipped with a pair of terra cotta boots for the death march.

The length and the route of the journey are obscure. But the notion has a long and interesting history.

دولت کے لیے

Washington will send military advisers if aid to Contras renewed

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States plans to supply military advisers to the Nicaraguan Contras if Congress gives President Reagan authority to resume military funding to the rebels later this year. All the signs are that the White House is winning the long battle on Capitol Hill to get the money.

Military analysts say that the guerrillas have proved to be logistically weak without direct military guidance from the US, which in essence created the fighters out of several rag-tag bands early in 1982 with funds totalling more than \$80 million (£53 million) before Congress called a halt in mid-1984.

Most of the guerrillas are based in Honduras, with smaller groups operating from the Costa Rican border to the south. Administration officials say that American training could take place in the camps in Honduras, in El Salvador, or in military bases in the US.

The programme is expected to be one of the Administration's priorities once military aid begins flowing.

The White House is expected to present a plan for military assistance to the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, which is

due to vote on the issue on April 15.

The Democrats are preparing their own plan, laying strong emphasis on attempted peace negotiations over a specific period before any money is released.

President Ortega's implicit refusal in a television interview on Saturday to negotiate directly with the Contras has undoubtedly strengthened the Administration's case in Congress.

His defiant statement that he was willing to meet President Reagan, "chief of the Contras," did not go down well.

The idea of training the rebels in Honduras is likely to raise eyebrows in Tegucigalpa, which has been moving towards a foreign policy more independent of the US. It has been enormously embarrassed by the publicity given to recent military incursions by Nicaraguan troops who have tried to rout Contra bases inside Honduran territory.

The White House denied assertions by a senior Honduran official published in American newspapers on Thursday that the US had deliberately exaggerated the seriousness of Nicaragua's border raids and had pressured Honduras into asking

for \$20 million in emergency military aid.

Both the Honduran claims and the strength of the US denial point to increased tensions between the two countries.

Many Honduran civilian and military leaders believe the *de facto* permanent US military presence is an affront to the country's territorial integrity.

The White House and the State Department said in statements that the Honduran claim "comes as a surprise to us, especially in view of their deviation from the facts and from the public and private position of the Honduran Government."

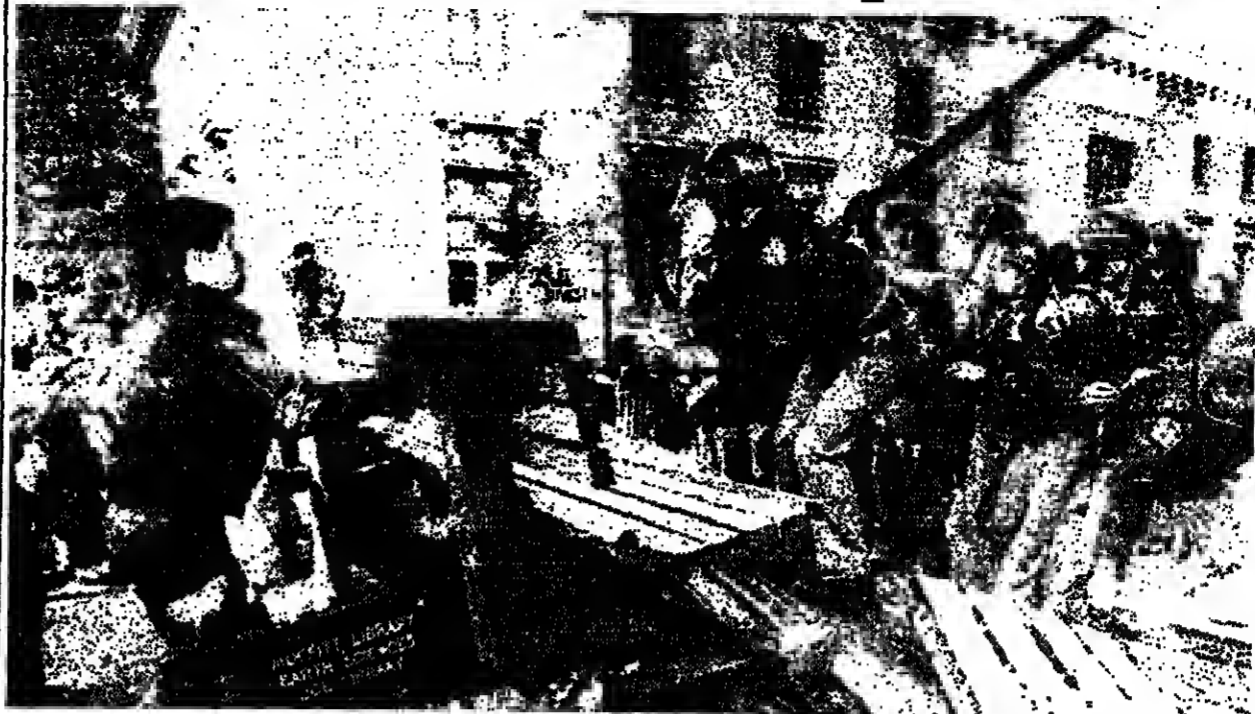
Mr John Ferch, the US Ambassador to Honduras, has been instructed to seek clarification from President Azcona.

According to the State Department, the Honduran official's statement was not cleared by the President. The unnamed official said that Honduras had not felt that its security was endangered by the Nicaraguans.

Honduras had asked for emergency military aid only after the American Embassy suggested that the US would welcome such a request.

Behind the struggle, page 8

Campus battle over apartheid



Police storming barricades erected on the Berkeley campus of the University of California to join battle with students protesting at the university's \$2.4 billion (£1 billion) investment in companies doing business with South Africa.

In what police described as the most violent demonstrations since the Vietnam War protests of the 60s, nearly 100 arrests were made and 29 people injured (Ivor Davies writes from Los Angeles).

An estimated 120 campus police aided by police from surrounding districts, broke through a group of protesters who had barricaded themselves behind rubbish cans, clearing the way for buses carrying demonstrators arrested earlier.

The anti-apartheid demonstrators hurled bottles, rocks and eggs.

The campus has been a hotbed of protest over South Africa's apartheid policies and Thursday's clash was the second time this week that police have had to break up demonstrations.

Boycott urged on pilots

Washington (Reuters) — The US Airline Pilots Association urged pilots worldwide yesterday to boycott countries linked to terrorist acts such as Wednesday's attack on a TWA airliner.

The boycott will be formally proposed at a meeting of the International Airline Pilots Association in London on April 10, an ALPA spokesman, Mr John Mazon said.

He said safety had improved at many airports around the world after recent hijacks and bombings but was still inadequate in some places, with lax procedures for security screening of baggage, maintenance and catering staff.

Mr Mazon said the TWA bomb could have been taken undetected through airport security devices. "No security device is 100 per cent effective 100 per cent of the time."

A full list of countries which should be boycotted had not been drawn up, he said, but sources said Libya, Syria, and Iran would probably be included.

US officials claim all three countries have backed terrorist groups which have carried out attacks on Western targets.

Mr Mazon said ALPA would be expanding to include blacklisting by airport staff of planes from proscribed countries, with refuelling and baggage facilities denied to them.

Aftermath of the TWA attack

FBI experts believe bomb was placed in lifejacket

American investigators sent to Athens by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to assist the Greek police now believe that the bomb that damaged a TWA airliner, killing four of its passengers over Greece last Wednesday, had been concealed under seat number 10F, probably inside the lifejacket.

"It was a plastic bomb and its impact bent the metal of the cabin floor downwards towards the luggage hold," a source close to the investigation told *The Times*.

An earlier theory that the explosion was due to a sort of limpet mine, attached to the wall of the aircraft, has now been discarded.

The findings focused suspicion on the mysterious woman passenger who had occupied seat 10F on the plane's flight from Cairo to Athens earlier that day. The passenger, identified by the Italian police as Mei Elias Mansour, left the TWA Boeing in Athens and 6½ hours later boarded a Middle East Airlines flight to Beirut.

However, the Greek Government yesterday denied any knowledge of the woman.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Foreign Minister, told a news conference: "I do not know if Mansour is a terrorist, if she has left Greece, or if she was in transit here."

He said the Greek police should be allowed to complete their investigations and reacted angrily when an American correspondent asked if Greece had a secret agreement with extremist groups to allow them safe passage through Greece. Mr Papoulias rejected the question as "an insult to Greece" and denied that such a deal ever existed.

From Mario Modiano, Athens

He insisted that the current investigation into the TWA bomb outrage was being conducted by the Greek police.

"The American agents and Italian police officers are here as observers only," he said.

The bodies of the four victims of the attack, which were recovered from a ravine near the town of Argos in southern Greece, have been brought to Athens for a post mortem examination before being sent to the US for burial.

Their names were given as Mr Alberto Ospino, aged 39, from Stratford, Connecticut, a US citizen born in Colombia; Mrs Dimitra Stylianopoulos, aged 52, and her daughter, Mrs Maria Klug, aged 25, both with dual American and Greek citizenship; and the latter's 8-month-old daughter Dimitra, all from Annapolis, Maryland.

Peres blames two PLO factions

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, in a television interview on Thursday night, blamed two Palestinian guerrilla groups for the TWA bombing.

Mr Peres said that a claim of responsibility by a group calling itself the Arab Revolutionary Cells was an attempted cover-up.

From what he knew, the group which had carried out the bombing had been the Abu Massa Group, located in Syria, under Syrian auspices, together with Abu Nidal.

Mr Peres said that Abu Nidal was connected with Libya, but he would be surprised if in that case the Libyans really played a role.

He said he saw no connection between the bombing and the Gulf of Sirte incident. "I think they had planned it even before this."

CAIRO: The Egyptian authorities confirmed yesterday that an Arab woman named Mansour boarded the TWA aircraft in Cairo on Wednesday, but disputed Italian claims that she may have been carrying a bomb (a Correspondent writes).

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

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Ortega's warning of war with US

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) — President Ortega of Nicaragua has said that increasing American support for the Contras fighting his Government could lead to war between Nicaragua and the US.

Speaking by telephone from Managua to Radio America in Tegucigalpa this week, Señor Ortega said Nicaragua had no ill-feelings towards Honduras, which allows some 12,000 Contras to maintain bases here.

"I do not believe war between Nicaragua and Honduras will ever break out, but what could begin is a war between Nicaragua and the United States," he said.

He expressed "once again the position of peace and friendship which Nicaragua holds towards the people and Government of Honduras".

Last week about 800 Nicaraguan troops were reported to have crossed the border in a raid against Contra camps.

Reagan Administration officials claimed that a Sandinista force of 1,500 troops had invaded Honduras and immediately sent \$20 million (£13 million) in military aid to the Honduran Government. US helicopters also ferried Honduran troops to the border.

Señor Ortega repeated that his army was trying to thwart an offensive planned by the Contras. He said there had been heavy fighting in the region in the past few weeks.

Britain's Muslim mediator

Sidon (Reuters) — A Sinai Muslim militia leader, Mr Mustafa Saad, said yesterday he was helping to win freedom for the kidnapped British journalist Mr Alec Collett.

"I have become a mediator in the Collett case because it is a purely humanitarian issue and because Collett's health is in danger," Mr Saad said after talking to Sir John Gray, the British Ambassador in Beirut.

"We are seeking earnestly to achieve positive results," said Mr Saad, chief of the Popular Liberation Army militia that dominates Sidon.

Mr Collett, aged 65, was seized by gunmen near Beirut a year ago while on a writing assignment for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees.

Mr Saad said he also discussed with Sir John the disappearance in Beirut last week of the British teachers Mr Leigh Douglas and Mr Philip Padfield. "There has been no word of them since they left a night club to walk home late last Friday. British diplomats fear they have been kidnapped."

The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims that holds Mr Collett, a diabetic, said last week it had asked Mr Saad to pass its conditions for his release to Sir John.

"We are now discussing with the Ambassador every new development. We have expressed willingness to help," Mr Saad said.

BEIRUT: Five militiamen of the so-called South Lebanon Army were killed or wounded yesterday when a roadside bomb exploded in a village near its headquarters in Marjayoun, security sources in Sidon said. The blast was followed by gunfire as Israeli troops and SLA militiamen began bombing the area.

Tel Aviv, security sources said an SLA militiaman was killed and another wounded in an ambush while dismantling a land mine near the town of Bint Jbeil.



A Shia Arab fighter firing grenades into Palestinian camps in Beirut yesterday. Recent clashes have killed 30 people.

Private burial for dissident Iran ayatollah

Ayatollah Muhammad Kazem Shariat-Madari, who died in a private hospital in Tehran on Thursday, is expected to be given a private burial today in the holy city of Qom, where he had lived and taught since 1924 (Hazhir Teimourian writes). He had been suffering from cancer.

According to his family, he was offered a permit to seek treatment abroad, but refused, saying he wished to die among his followers. Since December 1979, when moderate Shias rose in his support and took over Tabriz, the capital of Azerbaijan, for two days, he had been under house arrest and was forbidden to receive his followers.

American briefing lifts Israel's peace hopes

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, renewed home yesterday from a brief visit to the United States, cautiously optimistic after his talks with American officials that prospects for renewing the stalled Middle East peace process "may be slightly better than meets the eye."

"I believe that the US Secretary of State can help to move forward the existing negotiations as well as aid in the search for additional openings," Mr Peres said. He added that the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, would be looking for an opportunity to visit the region.

Mr Peres, who is riding an unprecedented wave of popularity at the moment, with the latest poll in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post* finding that 74 per cent of those asked approved of his performance as Prime Minister, dismissed criticism of his visit which, he said,

would "contribute greatly to Israel's economy".

Reports reaching here from Washington during the visit indicated that he received a sympathetic hearing on Israel's economic needs. One direct economic result of the trip will be the release in the coming days of \$375 million (£250 million) in US emergency aid, half of the \$750 million extra aid earmarked for Israel during the current fiscal year.

Mr Peres also said earlier yesterday that he had received a "very serious, very positive response" to his idea for a \$25 billion "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East, under which the US and other Western industrialized nations would set up a fund to support poor Western countries in the Middle East whose regimes might be endangered over the next decade by upheavals in the region because of the drastic fall in oil prices.

Waldheim scorns poll smear

Linz, Austria (Reuters) — Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN secretary-general, said here today that allegations that he had belonged to Nazi groups or taken part in war crimes by Hitler's army in the Balkans had collapsed "like a pack of cards".

It was his first press conference since the storm broke a month ago.

The charges were the result of a smear campaign against his candidacy in the Austrian presidential election on May 4, he said. But later, in an interview with Reuters, Dr Waldheim said he had accepted invitations to join the activities of a Nazi riding corps and a Nazi student group before the war in order to help "complete his studies".

"I had a lot of trouble in finishing my studies," he said. "So I said to myself, 'can participate, and that would keep me there without being suspicious in their eyes. It can't do any harm. And so I participated.'"

He denied deliberately omitting from his curriculum vitae the years he served in the Balkans under Nazi General Alexander Lohr, who was executed for war crimes.

Second Nevada test will kill moratorium

The Reagan Administration is planning to conduct another underground nuclear weapons test in Nevada next week, almost certainly spelling the end of the Soviet Union's eight-month moratorium on its own testing.

President Reagan's determination to press on with the programme has been dramatically emphasized in a new request to Congress for a \$1.9 billion (£1.3 billion) programme to upgrade the Nevada test site over a period of years, to "maintain and improve" weapons for the nuclear stockpile.

The precise nature of the test expected next week is secret, but Capitol Hill sources said in general terms that it would test the effects of a nuclear explosion on weapons.

Warheads for the MX intercontinental missile and Trident II submarine-launched missile will probably be among the items exposed to radiation to test how they might survive radiation given off by interceptors in the new Soviet anti-ballistic missile system.

Although superpower relations have been getting more tense of late, the White House hopes the Soviet Union will offer next week a firm date for nuclear stockpile.

Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, is to meet Mr Reagan on Tuesday, when an answer may be given.

Kyprianou doubts on UN plan

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

President Kyprianou of Cyprus is due in London tomorrow for talks with Mrs Thatcher on the latest United Nations plan to reunite the divided eastern Mediterranean island.

He is expected to tell the Prime Minister on Monday afternoon that the Greek Cypriots have strong reservations about aspects of the plan, particularly those dealing with the withdrawal of Turkish troops from northern Cyprus, the guarantees for a settlement and the freedom to move, settle and own property throughout the island.

The new plan, the third since Señor Javier Peres de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, launched his settlement initiative in 1984, was presented to the Greek and Turkish Cypriots on Saturday. They have until April 21 to respond.

President Kyprianou discussed the latest plan with Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, in Athens earlier this week. Mr Papandreu is understood to share the Greek-Cypriot leader's reservations. They are due to meet again on April 16.

Britain, which has residual responsibilities towards Cyprus as a guarantor power, is anxious to see a settlement of the long-running problem, which has provoked serious tensions between two members of Nato, Greece and Turkey.

So are the Americans. Both are understood to be backing the latest UN initiative.

Greece and the Greek-Cypriots are concerned that they may forfeit British and American support if they reject the latest UN proposals.

But it would be politically impossible for them to accept a deal that does not contain a clear timetable for the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island.

According to reports in the Greek-Cypriot press, the new plan bears many similarities to the earlier plans submitted in January and April last year.

Bomb reward

Melbourne (AP) — Victoria has raised its reward for the capture of the car bomber of a Melbourne police station to nearly £50,000 in an attempt to find new leads into the terrorist-style attack on March 27 that injured 21 people, 11 of them police officers.

Run for peace

New York (AP) — An opportunity to carry the torch during what is being called the first Earth run for peace is being offered to the public at a charge of \$500 (about £330) a kilometre. The run around the world begins here in September when the torch will be lit at the UN.

Cohn sued

Washington — Mr Roy Cohn, the tough-talking chief aide of Senator Joseph McCarthy during the communist witch-hunt of the 1950s, who is being sued for \$7 million (about £4.6 million) by the American tax authorities, Mr Cohn says he has liver cancer.

Barge sunk

Hamburg (Reuters) — One man died and another was missing, feared dead, after a Czechoslovak tug was in collision here with a harbour barge which sank.

Bonner return

Newton, Massachusetts (Reuters) — Mrs Yelena Bonner has told her husband, the dissident Soviet physicist, Dr Andrei Sakharov, during a telephone call that she will return to the Soviet Union by the end of May.

Aquino takes up offer of dialogue with communists

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A Philippines Government emissary to be chosen by President Aquino will begin "in a few days" exploratory ceasefire talks with leaders of the country's 17-year-old communist insurgency, a palace spokesman said yesterday.

"We shall have to name the emissary and agree on the time and place for the dialogue", Mrs Aquino's spokesman, Mr Rene Saguisag, said. "But I hope we can get things going in a few days."

The presidential palace announcement came just hours after it received a two-page statement from the National Democratic Front (NDF), a left-wing umbrella group, declaring its readiness to begin a preliminary dialogue on ceasefire terms.

The statement was the same document earlier sent to news agencies and journalists after a secret meeting in Manila's northern outskirts on March 24 between a ranking NDF leader, Mr Antonio Zumel, and local reporters.

Membership of the NDF includes the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing, the New People's Army.

In a follow-up communiqué 10 days ago, Mr Zumel complained that "until now, no approaches, formal or informal, direct or indirect, have been made by the government", and repeated the Front's unprecedented peace offer. But Mr Saguisag complained that until Thursday morning, when the NDF's proposal arrived in the mail, the Government had received no formal communiqué, and therefore could not officially act on the peace talks proposal.

In line with her election campaign pledge, Mrs Aquino last month called on the rebels to lay down their arms and join her in national reconciliation efforts.

Despite the peace overtures, the estimated 16,000 guerrillas had continued operations nationwide with over 360 people killed in clashes with government troops during the five weeks Mrs Aquino has been in power.

Although the communists listed no conditions for the preliminary ceasefire talks, Mr Saguisag said long-standing Communist demands for the dismantling of US military bases in the country could not be part of the negotiations.

He said the Aquino Government is committed to honour its agreement with Washington, which allows the bases to remain in the country until 1991. Mrs Aquino has said she is keeping her "options open" after that date.

The rebels also are unlikely to surrender their weapons and would like to see the replacement of the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, and the Armed Forces chief, General Fidel Ramos.

The communists remain suspicious of both men, despite their leadership of the military revolt, because of their long association with the discredited Marcos regime.

US will help find Duvalier fortune

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) — The US Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Mr Elliot Abrams, yesterday offered American help to Haiti in its efforts to recover ex-President Jean-Claude Duvalier's fortune.

"We want to and we will (help) in every way we can," he said at the end of a fact-finding trip.

He said that Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy, president of the interim National Council, had been very clear about the Government's desire to get the money back.

But Mr Abrams said that tracing and recovering the Duvalier money would be harder than finding that of former President Marcos of the Philippines because the US had access to some of Mr Marcos's documentation, but not to that of Mr Duvalier.

Several foreign law firms have offered the Haitian Government their services in tracing and recovering the vast amount of money alleged to have been embezzled by Mr Duvalier, who was toppled in February, and by his father and predecessor, Francois Duvalier.

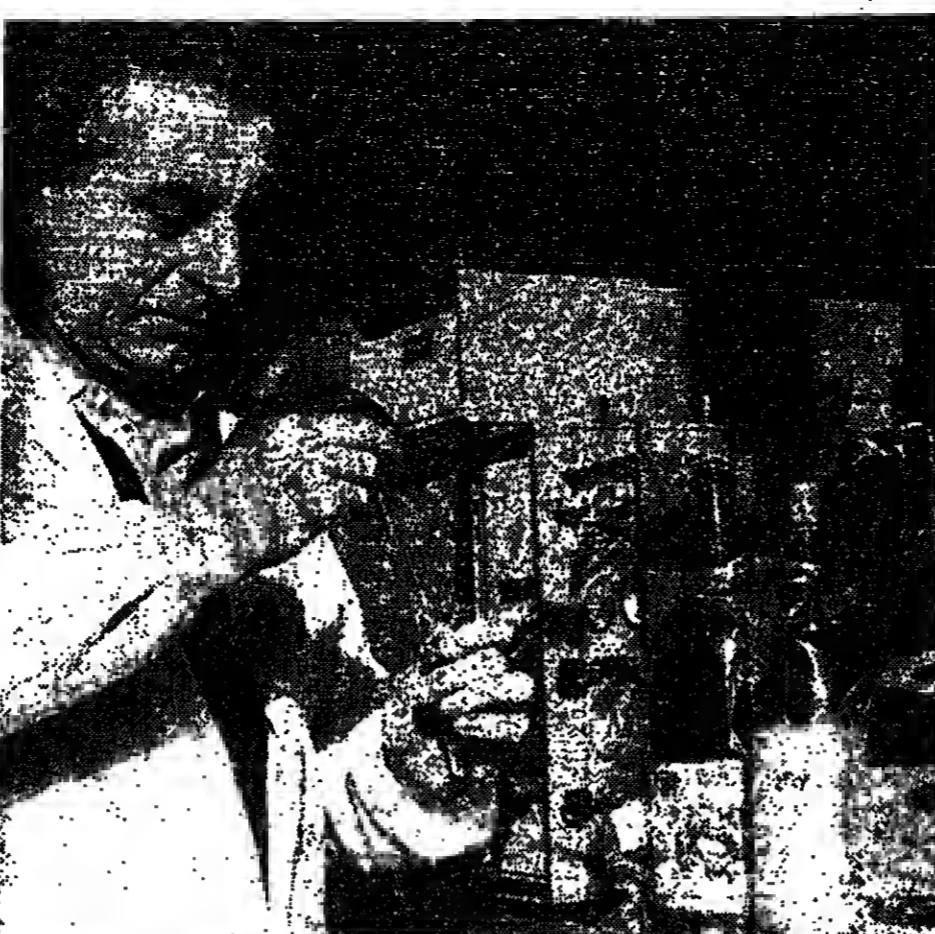
Mr Abrams said he had come on a two-day, fact-finding visit "to see first-hand what has been accomplished to date", and to meet and review with Haiti's new leaders all that country's needs.

He said Haiti's new leaders needed a modernized and professional "new military to maintain order". He said he would recommend the granting of American aid to train Haitian forces.

Praising the revolution which ousted Jean-Claude Duvalier, Mr Abrams said: "It will take time to create a new system of government and repair the damage of 29 years of despotic rule."

He added: "A lasting democracy in which elections are meaningful must rest upon a firm foundation." Respect for human rights, free trade unions and freedom of the press were essential ingredients, he said.

The US had already provided nearly \$60 million (£40 million) this fiscal year, including an emergency shipment of wheat last month and another shipment of wheat and oil which Mr Abrams said was "on the way".



A chemist in Milan analysing Barbera wine for its methyl alcohol content. Fifteen people have died in northern Italy in the past three weeks after drinking contaminated wine.

Italy's alcohol scandal

The two ministers rejected calls for their resignation from the small opposition Radical Party. But they admitted that a severe blow had been dealt to an important centre of Italian agriculture. Reports from Bonn say that West Germany has imposed a ban on Italian wine imports.

The official Italian gazette has decreed that wine producers must attach to each consignment a certificate of its chemical content.

The Government has named 31 firms whose products the public is advised to avoid. Four of these are under judicial investigation, while analysis of the products of 11 others shows a higher chemical content than permitted by law. The products of the rest are still being analysed.

But the authorities cannot yet claim that the situation is under control for in 24 hours 16 people have been taken to hospital in the north of Italy.

On paper the consumer is well protected. Signor Pandolfi told Parliament that the maximum amount of methyl alcohol permitted in Italy is lower than that allowed in France.

Wine dope distillery found

Italian inspectors have discovered a distillery of methyl alcohol with a store of 361 tonnes apparently available for distribution to the wine-making industry, Signor Costante Deegan, the Health Minister, told the Chamber of Deputies yesterday.

He was replying to questions on the adulteration of wine which has so far led to 15 deaths and the arrest of six people: four allegedly involved in the distillery and two wholesalers.

He and the Minister of Agriculture, Signor Filippo Pandolfi, defended the work of their ministries, saying 240,000 hectolitres of adulterated wine had been seized. Out of 1,103 samples of wine examined, 7 per cent contained methyl alcohol above the permitted level.

Labelling move blocked in EEC

Italy recently blocked attempts by the EEC to ensure detailed wine labelling which might have avoided the deaths of Italians who drank adulterated wine, according to a British Conservative MEP.

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott said the EEC was now moving to clamp down on wine producers who used cheap additives. But such proposals had been put forward in 1983, and action should have been taken last autumn to ensure proper labelling when an anti-freeze ingredient was found in Austrian wines.

Mr McMillan-Scott said the food institute at Zeist in the Netherlands had told him it was willing to test all EEC wines for dangerous substances at minimal cost.

But at a meeting of an EEC working group on the labelling of alcohol held on March 5 this year the Italians had blocked agreement, arguing that no decisions could be adopted until the EEC had agreed on definitions of all ingredients.

Mr McMillan-Scott last November called for action over the Austrian scandal in the European Parliament and has tabled a resolution calling for all EEC wine labels to state clearly the country of origin, alcoholic strength and all additives.

Present EEC law allows the following additives: potassium tartrate, potassium bicarbonate and calcium carbonate (north European wines), tartaric acid (Mediterranean wines), sugar (French wines), grape rust (Italian wines), and in all cases sulphur, sorbic acid, diammonium phosphate, ammonium sulphate, thiamin hydrochloride, citric acid, potassium bitartrate, tannin, copper sulphate and carbon dioxide.

Patient gets wrong heart

St Louis (AP) — A donor heart delivered to St Louis by US Air Force jet fighter has been implanted in a Missouri man whose body was rejecting an earlier transplant that did not match his blood type.

A spokesman at Barnes Hospital here said the 47-year-old patient was in critical condition in intensive care after undergoing his second transplant in less than two weeks. His name is not being disclosed.

The patient had been in serious but stable condition since he received a donor heart of the wrong blood type on March 21.

In the first transplant a heart of blood type B was put in the patient, who has type A blood. The typing error was made at the Texas hospital where the donor heart came from, a spokesman said, refusing to identify the hospital.

The first transplant was almost completed when St Louis hospital officials learnt that the heart was from a person with a different blood type. Doctors had no choice but to complete the operation, the spokesman said.

Threat of Aids grows in Scandinavia

Oslo — Aids is spreading through Scandinavia at a rate comparable to the United States and other countries where the disease is considered a serious threat to public health, according to a Norwegian specialist (Tony Samstag writes).

Dr Stig Froeland, of the Rikshospitalet in Oslo, estimates that 2,000 Norwegians of a population of four million, have been infected by the HTLV-3 virus thought to cause Aids.

Although only 20 have developed the disease, the numbers are doubling every six months and Dr Froeland expects the total to reach at least 300 by 1990.

Madrid commuters go on wrecking spree

Railway employees at one of Madrid's main stations fled in panic as passengers, angered by delays to services, went on the rampage, wrecking the station's installations and damaging carriages and other equipment.

Police used riot control equipment to end the disturbance at Atocha station which lasted about two hours on Thursday night. Three people were arrested. Train services scheduled for Atocha were rerouted to the other principal Madrid station, Chamartin.

The trouble began when commuter passengers on a train which had already been delayed were told to get off and board another train which was then also delayed. Rail commuters had already been subjected to several weeks of intermittent work stoppages by national rail employees lasting between two and 24 hours.

A railway spokesman said considerable damage was done. Windows and furniture were broken, arrival and departure screens shattered and control equipment at a switching tower wrecked. The commuters also pushed luggage trolleys on to the tracks to block other trains and vandalized the interior of railway carriages.

The line affected by the delay connects the centre of Madrid with several towns to the south of the capital many of whose residents make up much of the city's labour force. Repeated delays on the same line last summer led to demonstrations by passengers and sit-ins.

Paris refuses to reveal its hand over jailed agents

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French Government says that it is "studying closely" the latest comments by Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, on the fate of the two French agents imprisoned for their part in the Greenpeace affair, and on New Zealand's "unpleasant opposition" to the continuation of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

The new right-wing Government has made negotiations on the release of the two agents one of its priorities.

During his election campaign last month, M Jacques Chirac, the new French Prime Minister, said that if New Zealand did not exercise its right to grant an amnesty to the two officers, it would mean that it had "placed itself in the camp of the adversaries, even the enemies of France, and it must then draw the necessary consequences".

Mr John MacArthur, the New Zealand Ambassador to Paris, was called in for talks with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, M Jean-Bernard Raimond, within five days of the latter's appointment.

For the time being, however, the Government is declining to reveal its hand.

Asked in a French radio interview on Thursday night what steps the Government was considering to put pressure on New Zealand, M Michel Noir, the Foreign Trade Minister, referred to the "discreet" measures already taken by the previous Government regarding restrictions on the importation of New Zealand sheep, brains, wool and fish, but gave no hint of what further measures the new Government might have in mind.

M Edouard Leclerc, owner of one of the biggest French supermarket chains, announced earlier this week that he would no longer buy any products of New Zealand origin as long as the two French agents remained in prison in New Zealand, and called on other supermarket chains to follow his example.

Captain Dominique Prieur and Major Alain Mafart, who were sentenced in October in New Zealand to ten years' imprisonment for their involvement in the sinking of the Greenpeace boat, Rainbow Warrior, have always been regarded here as two French officers who were simply carrying out orders and who should therefore never have been jailed.

Mr Lange is therefore right to suspect that if the two agents were sent home, it would be to his benefit, rather than to serve the rest of their sentences in France, which he has made clear he could not accept.

Low-key NZ response on French pressures

From Richard Long, Wellington

The Government here deliberately responded in low key yesterday to comments by M Michel Noir, the French Foreign Trade Minister, about pressures that might be put on New Zealand over the Rainbow Warrior affair.

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, who has been sending feelers to Paris indicating that New Zealand would like to improve relations, refused to make any comment in reply. The Overseas Trade Minister, Mr Michael Moore, similarly declined to comment, beyond saying that New Zealand was taking action under GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) about French trade bans and customs delays, mainly in respect of the export of sheep brains and wool.

A European Commissioner, M Willy de Clercq, in New Zealand for talks, said that the EEC was already investigating apparent trade sanctions against New Zealand by the French.

"We are fact-finding," Mr de Clercq said. "We have asked the new (French) Government to give all the information we need to find what is really happening, not on the basis of press reports but of real facts. And we are expecting a clear stand from the French Government," he told a press conference.

But while Mr de Clercq was unwilling to express the Community's opposition in principle to trade sanctions, he did indicate that the Community would be unequivocal about France's obligations under GATT.

"We were asked by the New Zealand Government to enter into discussions within the framework of GATT. We are contented, we belong to the GATT system. We believe that GATT should strengthen the system," he said.

Girl hurt by shell 'critical'

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The six-year-old daughter of a British soldier was critically ill in a West German hospital yesterday after being hit in the head by shrapnel from an American army shell while walking near a Nato training area.

Emma Boughey, of Downend, Bristol, was walking at Minsingerlager, near Hannover, on Thursday with her brother, sister, cousin and grandmother when shrapnel burst from a tree-top, showering the family.

Emma's brother Karl, aged 12, sister Sarah, aged 10, and cousin Philip Sinclair, aged 13, suffered slight injuries to their hands, legs and feet. The grandmother, Mrs Brenda Dawson, suffered shock.

West German soldiers gave them their first aid and took them to a barracks where they were treated by an army doctor before being taken to a civilian hospital at Soltau. Emma was later transferred to a larger hospital in Hannover. Doctors performed an emergency operation.

A spokesman for the British Army of the Rhine said yesterday that the girl was very seriously ill. Emma's father, Corporal Brent Boughey, is serving with the 32 Armourment Engineer Regiment, REME, stationed at Minsingerlager. Mrs Dawson was visiting the Boughey family with Philip during the British Easter school holidays. She was later released from hospital.

The shell was a 155mm howitzer type fired by a US artillery brigade from West Berlin.

Exam clashes lead to Bangladesh curfew

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

A curfew was clamped on the Bangladesh town of Magura after three people were killed and more than 55 injured in clashes between police and students on Thursday, officials said yesterday.

The trouble came only a day after another town, Sylhet, in northern Bangladesh, was also placed under curfew after clashes involving students.

The officials in Magura, about 150 miles west of Dhaka, said two of those killed in Thursday's clashes were students. Two policemen were still missing after the violence, during which police fired more than 100 rounds and used batons to disperse an angry crowd.

The town's chief administrator said the clashes started when police tried to stop people supplying answers to students during a graduation examination. A crowd attacked the police, burned government vehicles and ransacked the house of the police chief.

On Wednesday a curfew was imposed on Sylhet after students from a technical college clashed with residents. One person died. The curfew was relaxed yesterday.

● Storm deaths: At least 10 people were killed and 100 injured in a hailstorm that struck three districts of central Bangladesh on Thursday, according to press reports.

Pilot mistakes airport

Los Angeles (UPI) — Federal officials are trying to determine how a United Airlines Boeing 747 en route to International Airport almost made a potentially disastrous landing at the small Hawthorne airport, The Los Angeles Times reported yesterday.

Seoul President's UK visit key to co-operation

From David Watts, Seoul

When President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea arrives in Britain on Monday for the first visit by a Korean head of state he will be opening the way for what both countries see as a unique opportunity for industrial co-operation.

A series of unrelated factors coincides this year to give Seoul an opportunity to break out of its trade and technological dependence on Japan and the United States and to provide Britain with the chance of joining in South Korea's development as it rises to challenge Japanese dominance on world markets.

The Koreans have also made no secret of the fact that they want to diversify their arms dealing. They will be seeking some weaponry the country lacks, such as submarines.

"We are in great danger of making the same mistakes we did with Japan," according to a British diplomat. "The time is to get alongside the Koreans by exploiting our technology and their productive genius is now. They have a great manufacturing base and we have difficulty in turning our research into finished products. They've had years of working with Japan, being controlled by their supply of parts and their technology, and they want to break away from that. If we cooperate with them now we won't have to worry about them 20 years from now. They're very determined people and they've got plans. If we don't get together with them and cooperate on technology they'll get the technology from somewhere else and beat us anyway."

The Koreans believe that there are many kinds of intermediate technology being discarded by Britain which can be taken up by South Korea's production facilities to put British-technology products into third markets it could not penetrate on its own because of high labour costs.

"Europe must look outside itself to cooperate with countries like South Korea," said Dr Suh Sang Mok, Vice-Chancellor of the Korea Development Institute. "Korea is the perfect partner for European companies because of our capacity to absorb technology. If we cooperate, European firms can manufacture here at very low cost for China and penetrate the Japanese market; why not?"

President Chun, who will be accompanied by his wife, Lee Soon Ja, takes with him to Britain representatives of virtually all the leading South Korean companies looking not only for technology but also for investment opportunities.

The high value of the yen is causing many South Korean firms to try to reduce their dependence on Japan for buying finished industrial equipment and licensed technology for Korean exports — and to search for technologies which the Japanese have been unwilling to release.

But President Chun, aware that he still needs to persuade some South Koreans of the legitimacy of his rule, also seeks the cache of a visit to the mother of democracies.

The first South Korean leader to visit Britain in 100 years of diplomatic relations will undoubtedly impress some at home with his European tour, but probably not his most vociferous opponents.

South Korea's success cannot, however, be denied, and the fact that Britain can still join in the development of a country which is determined to emulate Japan in many fields offers a chance to regain a foothold in the East.

But distance does not mean that the relationship is completely free of difficulties, and the British side is hoping that the President will offer concessions on two important complaints about British exports of whisky and chocolates.

In spite of the liberalization of bulk grain and malt whisky imports in July 1984, South Korea is planning to ban such imports, from next year, in the case of grain imports, and in 1990 in the case of malt bulk. Malt imports are worth some \$2 million (£1.33 million) a year, but it is not the money so much as the emotional impact of blocking a unique British export.

South Korea has had a visible trade surplus with Britain every year since 1973, but the imbalance of more than \$360 million last year was largely offset by the surplus in invisible trade. Britain is South Korea's second largest European trading partner and its seventh largest world-wide. But, in terms of capital, Britain is Seoul's largest creditor world-wide, with loans totalling \$3,531 million up to the end of 1984.

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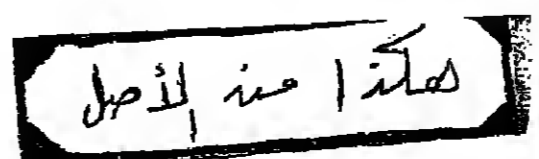
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SPORTS DIARY Simon Barnes

Cock a hoop

Many are the sports that nourish fond dreams of becoming, as snooker is now, the television glamour game.

In the saddle

Tomorrow the men of the Chackmore Hunt roar into action. By roar, I mean roar: they will grab their twist-grip throttles and charge across country in a cloud of blue smoke.

Here's my tip

Owners and trainers have been waiting in fear and dread lest Sports Diary, the column that never tips a winner, points a finger in their direction this weekend.

Remember Swarop Kishan, the portly umpire whose decisions made the England cricketers so sad on their last trip to India?

Disillusion

What is the natural reaction of any red-blooded Englishman to opening his first World Cup handbook of the year? When I received a copy of the Playfair handbook I turned at once to 1966 - the World Cup.

Boisterous

Here is the good news for Our Boys in Trinidad: they are not the only sporting travellers in deep trouble.



Jeremy and Ralph are hoping to buy the room they met in and turn it into a flat.

Getting there was not half the fun. Think of the most arduous, sweaty and uncomfortable biking trip you've taken.

Practically everyone we encountered was armed, Contras and civilians. The most memorable part of the trip occurred when an iguana darted across the road.

Why would thousands of men and boys gather along this remote, mountainous northern border of Nicaragua to fight the Sandinistas?

Two ideas died quickly when I got to this part of Nicaragua. One was that the Contras are a ragtag outfit. True, their uniforms aren't uniform.

Macao will all this picturesque decadence be the same under Peking's straight-laced government?

What awaits the pastel-coloured baroque churches, the Catholic festivals, the incense-filled Buddhist temples, the Portuguese language, the free press?

Negotiations between Portuguese and Chinese government delegations on the future of the territory are expected here to begin in the next few weeks.

At first sight it would seem, therefore, that the Portuguese government does not have a single card to bargain in return for guarantees of civil, legal, economic, linguistic and religious rights for the 500,000-strong population.

Fred Barnes visits northern strongholds of Nicaragua's anti-Sandinista guerrillas and finds the motivation for their struggle

Facts behind the Contra rebels' cause



Far from it. There are a number of former members of Somoza's national guard in the officer corps, including the FDN chief Enrique Bermudez.

Desperate for good publicity, Contra officers suggested people for me to interview. I decided to question soldiers at random.

Two ideas died quickly when I got to this part of Nicaragua. One was that the Contras are a ragtag outfit. True, their uniforms aren't uniform.

Patricia Clough looks at the future of Macao, Portugal's casino colony

Back to China - but when?



Macao: will it go on sinning under Peking?

lieve, China is probably anxious to avoid the over-hasty decolonization which brought turmoil to other Portuguese possessions, such as Angola and Mozambique.

aid from the United States they can advance against the Sandinistas and hold positions. "From the first moment we get the aid and full support, the Sandinistas are going to start crumbling."

Bermudez, who like the Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega wears designer sunglasses, has enemies other than the Sandinistas. He was Somoza's military attaché in Washington in the late 1970s.

I didn't interview any refugees either. The best I could do in three days was form a few impressions. I couldn't investigate human rights cases or determine whether the Contras are indeed too tightly controlled by Bermudez and friends.

Two final impressions. The Contras are in this for the duration. They convinced me of that. Many of the officers have given up comfortable exile in Florida or California or Honduras.

No matter what President Reagan says, the Contras are not fighting for a seat at the negotiating table. Who is going to put his life on the line for that? They don't trust the Sandinistas to follow through on whatever they might agree to anyway.

Businessmen and government officials in Macao appear confident of the future and investment is increasing. Local businessmen have talked of Macao becoming "Asia's Luxembourg."

The people most worried about the future are the Macanese, of mixed Chinese-Portuguese descent, who fear they will be the losers under a Chinese-dominated regime and would like to put off the dreaded day as long as possible.

Meanwhile the Chinese, who make up 90 per cent of the population, are keeping silent. "There's no discussion. People are not used to it," one Portuguese resident said.

A businessman remarked: "We know that many people are worried but few dare to speak up because of the possible repercussions." Meanwhile the Chinese language press has insistently said that the future of Macao is in the hands of the Chinese government.

Boyd Black

Parties, come to Ulster's aid

Single-issue candidates in parliamentary elections are usually assumed to be eccentric or extreme, and one of the great strengths of the British party political system is its ability to marginalize eccentric or extreme politics.

Northern Ireland is now in worse turmoil than it has been in for years. It might seem that the most urgent need is to restore a surface calm. But nothing is more urgent than dealing with the root cause of its political instability.

The inter-party struggle for political power, based on social principles, is a great reconciler of differences in society. Elections that are not contested by the main parties of the state, and in which political power is not at issue, cannot exercise this reconciling effect.

Parliamentary government has been party government, in principle as well as practice, since Burke wrote his justification of party politics more than 200 years ago.

The Northern Ireland problem will begin to go away only if the people there are given the opportunity to engage in real politics through the party political system of the United Kingdom.

Philip Howard None but the knaves

Philippus: What shall we do about politics, Diogenes? Diogenes: Do you mind moving, Philippus? You're blocking the sun, and spoiling my sun-bathing.

P. Oh, come off it, Diogenes, or rather come out from the staid. They have been fortunate in their periods. But there were giants in the land in those days.



Chris Wormald

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

THE ARTS

Television

Some quirky scheduling on Channel 4 last night launched a new run of the topical health series *Well Being with Sue the Doctor*, a bought-in American documentary about the legal jeopardy of one of the more subtle specialists, an obstetrician — and then followed it with *The Cosby Show*, a breezy American comedy about a fictional obstetrician whose major headaches derive from his own spurtive offspring.

The second half of *Well Being's* double bill, *The Wall of Silence*, concentrated on the efforts of three British plaintiffs in gain redress for medical malpractice: the parents of a brain-damaged baby who made headlines by successfully suing the consultant obstetrician (who, seen here only in a snatched still photograph, is still practising); a woman whose routine operation rendered her incapable of writing, counting or knitting; and a former nurse who spent ten years recovering her legal costs after two operations left her with a permanent tracheotomy.

It must take unimaginable fortitude to face the rest of one's life having to draw each breath through a hole in one's throat, as well as dogged optimism to confront the medical profession's predictable rank-climbing.

The crux of the matter is that, in common with airline pilots, doctors thrive on the unquestioning confidence of the public, and, in common with lawyers, they tend to protect their own. The trawling-chasing proclivities of American lawyers have lately raised protests even in that litigation-happy land, but this programme made not an effective case for more accountability and less secrecy.

Meanwhile, in another part of the airwaves, BBC1 afforded a second opportunity to penetrate the wall of secrecy surrounding *Wynne and Penkorsky*, the first of the three-part serial first transmitted in January. Taken from Greville Wynne's own account of his dealings with the Russian double-agent Oleg Penkorsky, its most successful sequence showed the would-be defector, played with fluent Slavic expressiveness by Christopher Rzycki, bathing in the nirvanic delights of the free world: after-shave, expensive blondes, the jive. It also showed just why it is that actors relish playing spies.

Martin Cropper

Theatre

Portraits of brutal realities

Mephisto Barbican

Without Ariane Mnouchkine — who first adapted and staged it in 1979 — it is unlikely that Klaus Mann's novel would have been released in Germany, much less catapulted into fame by Lisvan Szabo's film.

The film was a thrilling piece of work: but for anyone who wonders why *Mephisto* is coming round again I can only say that Adriane Noble and the RSC now reveal it as one of the greatest plays of theatrical life which can only be fully presented through a performance on a stage.

Transparently autobiographical, Mann's story follows the career of Hendrik Hofgen, a figure based on his former friend Gustav Gründgens, a flamboyant left-wing actor of the 1920s who did a quick-about turn when the Nazis came to power.

Through his career the play at once examines the different roles theatre can perform in society, and the operation of a theatre community as a model of the outer world, besides showing how a particular man responded at a particularly excruciating moment of history.

At the same time, the audience themselves are put on the spot. In the Barbican, are we applauding a chunk of institutionalized culture, such as Hofgen's sell-out *Faust* in the Hamburg Schauspielhaus, or a subversive entertainment, such as Hofgen's Communist friends put on in their satirical cabaret?

In Mnouchkine's own production this point was pressed home by means of reverse seating, so that the entire audience swung round to see

official culture at one end of the hall and sketches about bureaucracy and the 1923 figures *Putsch* at the other.

This arrangement is not available to Mr Noble and his designer, John Gunter, who instead employ a majestic false proscenium with a makeshift truck stage for the cabaret numbers. If anything, this strengthens the contrast as it is all happening in the same space, and the rhythm of Mnouchkine's text resides in its use of oppositions.

One anti-Nazi sketch farcically identifying the telephone as a public enemy is followed by a scene with the phone ringing in earnest as a shrill warning to the company. A starving boy stumbles in and embarks on his life with the Nazis by devouring a crust of bread; a scene immediately followed by the sight of Hofgen and his friends selecting live lobsters in an exclusive restaurant.

and memento of current lover, while the radio plays a record requested by his pert schoolboy "son" and does not shrink from including the boy-to-man dedication. Too much.

Unrealized by Arnold, Ed and the other keen seekers of true happiness in this trilogy, they were living in antediluvian times. These 1979 plays may give expression to the outsider's timeless anguish but to see them today is like looking at the innocently confident work of a painter lucky enough to die before the Black Death. There is sharp wit, fair comment and the view of a life but as for anything that is being experienced in the contemporary world... the plays are gaslight.

After six months with Antony Sher

in the main role, the play's last weeks give Londoners to chance to see the author instead. He played the part in New York and won a Tony. The play won a Tony too.

Fierstein is fatter than Sher. This is not a statement of reproach (I too am fatter than Sher) but the part asks for fatness and as fat Arnold — far yet intelligent, heavy yet sensitive — he can look like a pink blanchange sounding off like a Brooklyn Master of Fox Hounds playing Bette Davis.

The first play offers the flavour of camp revue and not much else. The second has the ingenious setting of a bed as large as a boxing-ring — on which Arnold's ex-lover Ed (Rupert Frazer, deeply troubled), Ed's wife (Belinda Sinclair, understanding), Ar-

nold and his sweet-faced adorer (Rupert Graves), all disport themselves, so as to develop the main plot line so far: with whom will the humourous Ed find truest fulfillment.

The last play brings on Miriam Karlin to flash eyelids at her Arnold's perverse desire to adopt Ian Sears' cool delinquent child. Fierstein's playing has been broadening throughout the evening and then it explodes into farce. He must like it this way but it blocks the routes to neater, subtler points that could have saved the play from farce's flippide, sentimentality. I do not mind a quick splash of that, but when a deep wallow threatens I doodle cactuses in my programme.

Paradoxically, radio's

strength is also its fundamental shortcoming. It gives you nothing to look at, and the human eye is absolutely the dominant, the most excitement-inducing organ of perception. As long as sound remained the only mass broadcasting medium that did not matter very much. But once there were pictures as well, there was only one way things could go, and that was the way they went.

Much of the history of radio since television has been an attempt to compensate. One approach has been to try to persuade young audiences that sound alone has things to offer not available in the presence of vision. Then maybe they will stay on as adult audiences.

So far it has not been all that successful. There has been a string of children's programmes in recent years and the response has always been the same: the adults loved them and the children stayed away in droves. So what will happen to the latest effort, *Cat's Whiskers* (Radio 4, producer Caroline Smith) has been going out every morning this last week and is aimed at the under 12s.

Actor Paul Nicholas presents and he sounds amiably dotty and disorganized — the sort of chap a kid can pity. His sidekick, Jenny Luckraft, is a 13 year old with a large Mancunian accent, a voice like a small foghorn and a confident way with the script. She should induce audience identification. Then there are quizzes, competitions, running gags and some excellent material. Asterix, Ted Hughes's gripping story of the Iron Man, a serial by Willis Hall, and, by no means least, some accomplished five-minute plays written by children.

So is this to be another case of what the adults love? There is a difference here and it's thought to be important: *Cat's Whiskers* has been going out from 9.05 to 10.00am. That, it is hoped, will catch the kids before they are seduced by Roland Rat and prove to them that there is more to radio than seamless pop. I think it stands the best chance yet, although as long as we have eyes, vision and television in particular is going to rule.

David Wade



Great play of theatrical life: Alan Rickman, Fiona Shaw and Sean Baker in Mephisto

Another setting is a railway bridge; first brought on for Hofgen's careerist departure to Berlin, the second time to show the Dachau transports. The same image first projects freedom, and then the most horrendous imprisonment.

Through this intimately self-inflicting kaleidoscope we watch Hofgen gradually parting company with his communist and Jewish colleagues; and from the black dancer who he treats as a masochistic playmate. Come the purge on racial inferiors and she returns to him, someone he incited to savage games whom he now casts off in times of real savagery.

What the play does not show is how good an actor Hofgen is. Its one soft spot lies in the suggestion that his art as well as his moral identity is destroyed by collaboration. That is certainly the line adopted by Alan

Irving Wardle

Jeremy Kingston

Philharmonia/Muti Festival Hall

More and more it is Mahler's capaciousness that astonishes. Stravinsky one might have thought beyond the range of his earliest prophecies, but last night's performance of his First Symphony, conducted by Riccardo Muti, had a particular vivacity, pride and definition of colour that brought the work looking ahead to *Petushka* much more than it looked back over the landscapes of German Romanticism.

Concert True colour and character

Perhaps the connection is through Scriabin, at present a potent force in Muti's repertory, or perhaps Stravinsky is just what becomes of Mahler when his music is conveyed with this conductor's magisterial superabundance.

In any event, the performance was as surprising in detail as it was grand in presentation.

The grandeur was largely architectural. Muti was quite unambiguous about formal structures, perhaps a shade too unambiguous in the inner

movements both of which came to decisive halts, the one before its trio, the other after.

But it was interesting to hear the first movement done as prelude and allegro, the first half held back (although confidently, without any foresty mysteriousness), the second, from the moment where the horns roll about in D major, moving forward with sublime assurance.

Of course Muti's firm conviction disposed of any problems in the finale, the return of the opening being still more

overlapping of waltz and march, procession and tavern dance.

For most conductors these are elements in a spiritual autobiography, important more as symbols than as objects. Muti's unswerving attention to the presented substance of the music was refreshing.

His championing of Honegger's Second Symphony in the first half was again laudable, and graced by John Wallace's noble delivery of the chorale to keep alive some hope of a Honegger revival.

Paul Griffiths

Gallery Inventive lack of direction

David Hockney: Moving Focus Tate

Hockney's lithograph *Hotel Acatlan: First Day 1985* depicts the type of hotel courtyard to be found throughout the breadth and length of the Americas. Most of the long composition is taken up with the lowering beams of the portico and the monotonous red of the floor below. The slice of sun-baked Mexican gardens presented is cut up by five solid, police-blue columns. In comparison *Hotel Acatlan: Two Weeks Later 1985-86* is a whirlpool of experience, sensation and delight in a taut paradise of the artist's invention. This series is perhaps the most successful in his endeavour to master time and space, which has led him to photo-collage and new lithographic techniques.

Hockney has referred to a principle in Chinese painting called "moving focus", which acknowledges the spectator's roving eye. Despite this he has more in common with western artists of the end of the last century and the beginning of this who attempted to incorporate an additional spatial dimension and time into their paintings. He does not have the discipline of Monet, Picasso or Braque, so it is difficult to see his work without comparing it unfavourably with these and other early modern masters. Looking at *Caribbean Teatime*, one wonders what *Matisse* would have made of it. *An Image of Celia 1984-86* is little more than a

good pastiche of Picasso. *Red Celia* is a crude, but vivid, piece of updated fauvism.

The contemporary spontaneity that has always been Hockney's hallmark appears to be maintained in this show, and he can still be admired as a spectacular technician. His line and colour continue to have an instant appeal. He has paid a price, however, for his ivory-tower isolation. His enviable inventiveness has seen him churn out ideas like a constantly spinning wheel, with the result that the present exhibition is full of side-shows but lacks any convincing direction.

He projects his mother at us in three boxes, and makes us peer in and out of *Walking Past Two Chairs 1984-86* by lacquering the glass and painting the rhomboid frame. It succeeds in giving a fleeting sense of extra space, but can more easily be appreciated as

an up-ended pinball machine. He entertains us with the frame of *An Image of Gregory* and a group of chatting chairs in the luscious screen *Caribbean Teatime*, but the impact of the Acatlan scene is diluted, and nearly lost amid this funfair.

The Acatlan and Pembroke Studio series are the most compelling in the show. *Pembroke Studio: Interior 1985* naturally shares the same intensity about a place as the later Acatlan pictures. Its two-dimensional structure may seem too pictorially confused, but it does convey the artist's strong feelings. Too many of Hockney's recent works are emotionally flat and are little credit to an artist of his standing. There are many other British painters providing a more positive lead.

The show is open until May 11.

Alistair Hicks



Crude, updated fauvism: Hockney's Red Celia

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Dance Mummified moods

Royal Ballet Covent Garden

David Bintley's *The Sons of Horus* occupies a middle ground between plotless and dramatic ballets, so it was aptly placed on last night's programme at Covent Garden between Ashton's all-dancing *Birthday Offering* and his Turgeyev adaptation *A Month in the Country*.

Bintley does not really tell the story of how Isis invented mummification to preserve the remains of her dead husband, but uses it as the pretext for a series of dances which develop a variety of moods although only one breaks away from the prevailing seriousness.

That single exception is the trio for Hapi, the ape-headed god who protects the lungs, with two handmaids, and it suffered from the absence of its original performer, Stephen Jefferies. Replacing him, Guy Niblett performed the steps carefully, but he lacks Jefferies's daring in the many sudden falls, as well as Jefferies's sense of humour.

Apart from that, we had the cast for whom the roles were made last year, all of them dancing well. Ashley Page as the jackal-headed deity dances with a darkly glittering strength, and Anthony Dowell with a quiet dignity.

Mark Silver's long, light solos perhaps could have done with a little more sharpness but (judging from his participation in a singularly depressing *Giselle* the previous night, when almost every role was either too brittle or too limp in execution) he may not have properly recovered strength after his recent illness.

Lesley Collier provides the ballet with its focus, from her slow, very simple solo of grief at the beginning to her solitary

obedience at the end, with the duet in which Dowell is her partner, as its highlight. Her hushed sincerity and her keen responsiveness to the nuances of Peter McGowan's gently repetitious ritual music are an unalloyed pleasure to watch.

Collier's musicality, this time allied with a joyous vivacity in her solo and a serene happiness in the duet with Jay Jolley, was the chief source of delight in *Birthday Offering* too.

Some of the other soloists looked nonplussed or out-classed by Ashton's choreography, which never does the obvious thing but shows an inspired inventiveness — inspired I must add by the availability in 1956 of a more distinguished collection of ballerinas than the Royal Ballet has ever been able to field since.

This work, even when less than ideally done, is vintage Ashton. If I suggest that *A Month in the Country* is, by his standards, a minor work, I shall risk lynching, but honesty compels, and it seems to me that the Royal Ballet feels obliged to keep plugging this piece when several of his greatest ballets lie neglected, above all *Symphonic Variations*, which passes its fortieth birthday this month without any commemoration, unperformed since 1979.

However, it is *A Month in the Country* that we have. The best performed roles were the two youngest, Viviana Durante maintaining the high level of expressive pathos which Vera has evoked from all her interpreters and Simon Rice, already the most vividly mercurial Kolia, striving to outdo himself. The leading roles were underplayed (Beliaev) or exaggerated (Natalia) in a way that served neither Ashton nor Turgeyev.

John Percival

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا هو الجواب"

Radio eyes have

April 5-11, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts



Tackling a fence in last year's National: 'You know immediately whether the horse has gone over the top, whether the build up has sent him over and he's bottled out... or whether he's revving and going for it.'

How we beat the odds at Aintree



Last Suspect nearly didn't run in last year's Grand National. In what was supposed to be his last warm-up race, at Warwick, he ran badly, lost interest and failed to finish. That was enough for his trainer, Tim Forster, and owner, Anne Duchess of Westminster. They took very little time to decide that there was no point in running him in the most testing race of all. Hywel Davies, then 28, who had previously ridden four times in the National and never finished the course, heard about the decision only hours before the horse was to be formally withdrawn. Nearly in tears, he pleaded with the trainer to leave Last Suspect in the race. Mr Forster was reluctant, but suggested Davies telephone the owner directly. With considerable misgivings, and only as a favour to a loyal jockey, she agreed to let her horse run. On the morning of the race Last Suspect was 66-1; the near unanimous opinion of the racing tipsters was that he stood absolutely no chance of winning. The Times A to Z guide to the race shared that view, as did his owner and trainer, Hywel Davies, talking to Marcel Berlins, takes up the story of a victory that surprised everyone:

I thought he had a very good chance. He'd never ever fallen in his life, he'd never unseated a jockey. He'd proved he was a sound jumper and I knew he was a dour stayer and would last the 4 1/2 miles. But I didn't think he quite had the speed.

In the hour before the race I had a cup of tea and tried to compose myself—I was thinking about how to place him at all the fences. I didn't want him to make a mistake on the first circuit, because I knew that would put him off. The first circuit is a survival test anyway, and what I wanted was to make sure he kept out of trouble, jumped cleanly and enjoyed the race. For Old Sus it was very important that he enjoyed it. If he got sulky, he'd start putting the brakes on and dropping himself out. And once he's decided he's going to stop there's nothing you can do. That's what happened at Warwick in his previous race. I knew he had the class, it was just a matter of getting it out of him.

The National's different from any other race. The camaraderie is very close in the weighing room beforehand, everyone wishing everyone else good luck, building up each other's confidence. But when you get down to the start everyone's under a lot of pressure and there's excitement and apprehension. I didn't feel nervous at all until I was at the start. Then I got very keyed up. You've been waiting and building up and you just want to get on with it. I was sweating freely from the nerves and the tension, soaking wet.

I'm not thinking about winning at all. The chances of getting round are slim enough, so winning is unreal. You don't even think of it. I'm just thinking about getting round, negotiating all those fences, going into the land of the unknown. Last Suspect hadn't been there before. I was gambling on that. I hoped it would get him interested, get his blood up, so that he would forget his roguishness and get the best out of himself. I knew exactly where I

wanted to be at more or less every fence. I'd decided to go round the outside. It's not that he gets upset if there are too many horses round him, but he would resort to getting bumped around. He's concentrating, so when he starts getting knocked off his balance it unnerves him. He's a bit of a freak, and it would take him a long time to settle down again.

When you're lining up for the start there seems to be so much room. But once the gate goes up there are horses everywhere. You're looking to try to move, to look for a gap, trying to get a good sighting at the first fence. You have a flash of seeing it and then you get blinded and then you have a flash of it again. You're trying to concentrate on measuring your stride and there are horses crossing in front of you. It's not easy.

close I was. I was quite surprised. I gave him a real big kick on the fence before the Chair. I wanted him to fly over so that he'd do the same over the next. The Chair is a daunting fence, but he met it spot on, ran right up to the take-off board, got plenty of height and jumped it beautifully.

By the time I jumped the water (the last jump on the first circuit) I was lying third or fourth. But I still wasn't thinking about winning or anything. I've seen horses start to back up once they've crossed the Melling Road and realize they're going out to do the same circuit again. That was my most worrying time, going across the Melling Road the second time. That's when I thought he might lose interest and say to himself 'I've done this one. I don't want to do it again'.

He jumped the first one well and then started to swish his tail, which is usually a sign that a horse has had enough. But Last Suspect is quite a peculiar horse, and I think in his case it was more nerves than resentment. Anyway he jumped the next few fences well and he absolutely flew Becher's second time around.

Even after that, I was never thinking 'my God, we've got a winning chance'. I just thought 'hey, we've got a great chance of getting round, unless something dreadful happens'.

Snuggit, and I looked to my left and Greasepaint was there, but under pressure, and I thought 'I'm going to be third, third in the Grand National. Fantastic'.

He met the second last wrong again, and I blame myself a little bit. But he jumped it carefully, though he lost a length. By this stage the other two were going away from me. I just kept working. He flew the last fence and landed running, and then I suddenly realized 'My God I could be second' because I could see Corbiere was tiring. His head was on one side. By then I was so hyped, I didn't notice how tired I was. I started driving and driving and gave him a few smacks and begged him for more. He agreed to pass Corbiere and when we got to the Elbow I put my stick in my right hand and I saw Mr Snuggit

about three lengths ahead. So I really belted him one, the hardest I'd hit him at any stage. And he just went. He'd never responded like that before. I think what happened is that he came round the Elbow, saw the leader, and realized how easy it would be to pass him. And when I hit him hard, he said to himself 'Alright, I've been thinking of that, but I'll do it now'. And voom, he flew.

As soon as I hit him I knew I had the race won even though I was still about three lengths behind. And then as I passed Mr Snuggit it hit me. 'I've won the National.' And then I realized how exhausted I was. I got very emotional. There's no feeling like it.

LAST SUSPECT: Can be safely crossed off your list. In same ownership as Arkie but should not be mentioned in same breath. LENEY DUAL: May be involved in duel for last place. LUCKY VANE: Prone to occasional serious error and surprised many by getting round to finish fourth last year.

Bookies, tipsters and The Times got it wrong last year

You know immediately whether the horse has gone over the top, whether the build up has sent him over and he's bottled out on you and lost his confidence, or whether he's revving and going for it. Some horses start rushing it and then just pack it in. Others come out just right. All they want is to think about what they're doing.

I knew that Last Suspect was in that sort of mood as soon as we approached the first. When he caught sight of it his ears were pricked, and he was looking for it, feeling that he wanted to jump it.

It must be terrible to fall at the first, but he's jumped it well and cleanly and immediately I think 'thank God for that, he's got over the first and we're under way'.

of freeze, they stop breathing, their mouths open. They must die the death, because there's no ground there, it's just gone. But Old Sus was great over it like an old gentleman should be. Preservation was foremost in his mind. He just glided down and landed softly.

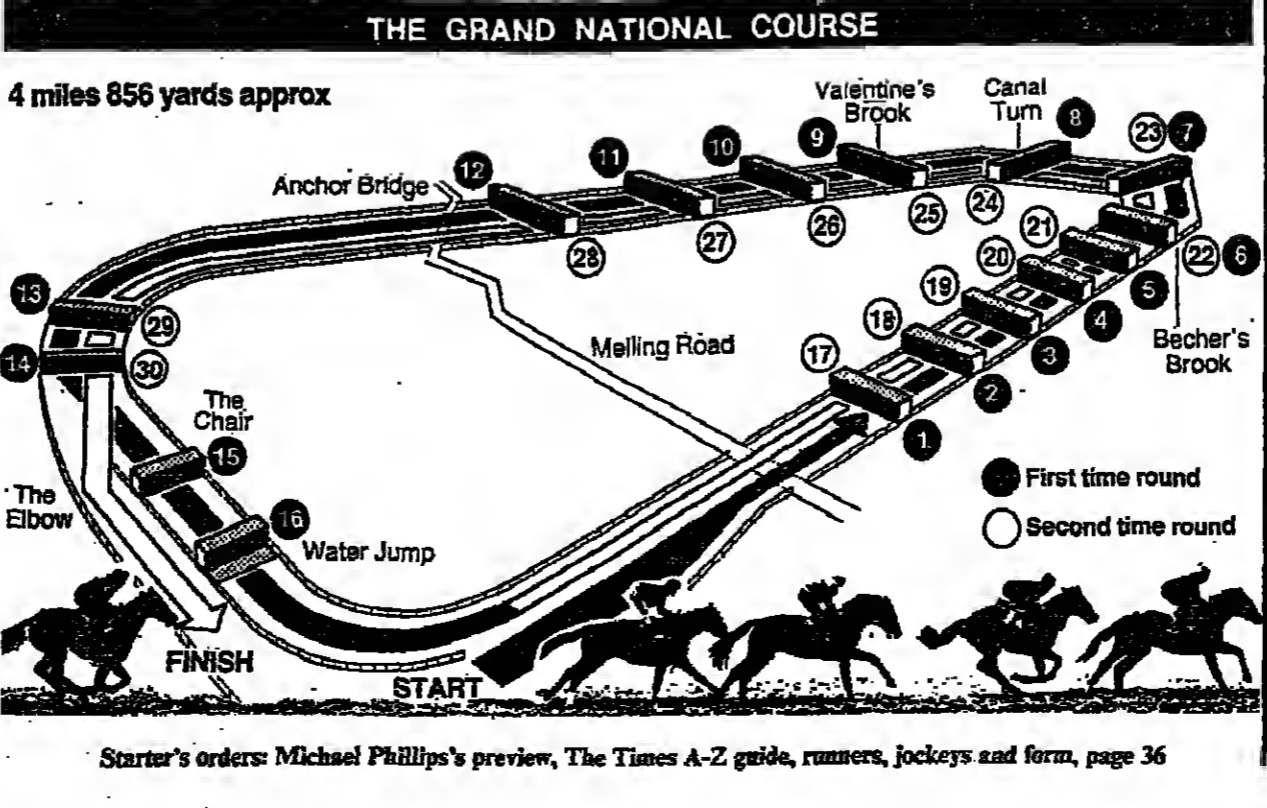
Then there's a small fence which you just pop over. You try to get your breather over that one.

Coming towards the end of the first circuit he was still enjoying it, going round nicely on the inside, and I found myself a lot handier than I thought I'd be. Just coming in the last two fences with a circuit to run. I realized how

SATURDAY Paula Wilcox in conversation: the serious side of a comic actress, page 18

Table with 3 columns: Arts Diary, Out and About, and other categories with page numbers.

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TRAVEL

Marooned in a pineapple patch

Michael Watkins concludes his series on out-of-the-way places in the Azores, where he is beguiled by the verdant and drowsy charms of an undefiled island

You never know with travel: you could end up with a lollipop, or the taste of bile in your mouth. And this is its attraction, for in our tidy society travel remains one of the last frontiers of the unpredictable.

Take the Azores: all nine of them, staunchly anchored to the mid-Atlantic sea-bed. What I had intended was, if not the entire archipelago then certainly a healthy cross-section of four or five. Instead I found myself marooned on one for 48 hours - the island of São Miguel.

Forty-eight hours, you have every right to consider, is not long enough to form a valid opinion. Quite so: but it is necessary to drink a whole bottle of wine to get its measure? I am happy with a swig or two... which in the case of wines grown on the islands of Pico, Graciosa and Terceira, was rather overdoing things.

For the Azores, the clock stopped the day before yesterday

Neither, if I am honest, can I rhapsodize about the cooking as prepared by the Cavallo Branco. The Santa Bárbara restaurant renowned for Azorean specialities. This particular treat consisted of cabbage soup, boiled goat and pineapple.

Pineapples proliferate. They are cultivated with bellicosity, pointing their spiky foliage skywards. Armed, as they are, with nuclear-warheads, these pineapples are the Azorean defence-system. They

will never be launched, of course, for the simple reason that the island will continue to snooze uninterrupted for the rest of time.

It would be misleading to say that the Azores belong to yesterday. For them the clock stopped the day before yesterday, with a certain drowsy charm in which no ill will befall you. Such is the trust that keys, by custom, are left in front-doors, allowing access to the neighbours. It is a nicely informal note among an otherwise formal people.

"My name", my guide and mentor formally introduced himself, "is Professor Luciano de Resende Mota Vieira and our chauffeur's name is Mr Mario Manuel Barbosa Botelho. They are long names, but we have plenty of time here." It was not a frivolous statement because Professor Luciano de Resende Mota Vieira was not a humorous man. He later imparted his formula for success: "You should eat more beans", he advised, "and admire more flowers". I concentrated instead on the flowers which, if anything, out-did the pineapples. It is not an exaggeration to claim that São Miguel is one vast garden measuring 62km by 16km in which hydrangeas, azaleas, hibiscus, and cannas are rampant.

And where flowers begin to thin out, tea and tobacco plantations take over. Wilderness belongs only to mountain slopes and to those areas of the earth's crust which have the bad manners to gurggle and belch - as they did on the day they came adrift from the



Atlantic garden: Magnificent flowers like these hydrangeas proliferate on São Miguel

TRAVEL NOTES

British Airways and TAP Air Portugal fly to São Miguel via Lisbon; BA to Lisbon from £114, TAP Lisbon to São Miguel from £166. The only hotel I liked on the island was the Caloura (5680 Lagoa, São Miguel), double £15.50 plus lunch and dinner at £4.90 per meal. Suntuons of Winney, Madeira House, Corn Street, Winney, Oxon (0893 76989) features a 7-day trip to the Azores from £385.



This gaseous quarter, redolent of bad eggs, is in the Furnas Valley on the banks of a calm and beguiling lake. With Professor Luciano I peered into a few of the *sulfataras* popular among those who choose to cook in the open. The principle of the operation is that you pop your cabbage soup, goat and so on

into a sealed pot, burying the whole affair in the ground. Four hours later you dig it up, done to a turn. After that we watched mud boiling in the ground at Caldeira de Ferro Botelho. And if anybody tells you that looking at boiling mud is anything more genial than the ultimate bore, he is lying. Settlement by the Portuguese started in 1444. In 1582 the Spanish came, remaining until the restoration of Portugal's independence in 1640. After the 174 Revolution the Azores were assured their own legislative assembly and government. Portuguese, but not Portuguese; for these islands are a long way from mainland Portugal, and their peo-

ple, unless I am wide of the mark, are a breed in which vulcanism is not extinct. Why else have they remained so undefiled by outside contagions? You could say because airline schedules are enough to put anyone off, that there is a shortage of good hotels, or that the weather is unreliable. But that's only half the story.

The other half is that they are just plain old-fashioned and doggedly resolved to remain so. When, in country districts, a young man fancies a girl, he addresses his courtship from the street beneath her window, and when, after a year or so, it is noticed that their intentions are not of an entirely flippant nature, representatives of both families confer upon the next stage of the mating ritual.

There is the sound of wind, the clop of hoofs, the swish of rain

In São Miguel's capital town of Ponta Delgada there are no junk-foods or massage parlours; shops are stocked with utilitarian goods. Not a boutique in sight. There are signs of concession: the sole high-rise structure at the town centre, designed as an hotel and abandoned as a failure before its doors opened; a nine-hole mountain golf course, and telly for three or four hours each evening, the first programme of which his pharmacies open on the island.

With all the wisdom of 48 hours' stay, I do not believe that there is anything opaque in the Azorean predicament. It would not do to look for subtlety or deviousness because very likely those traits do not exist. And in the process you would be insulting your host, who strikes me as proud and not at all predatory. They move in formal patterns, disciplined and honourable, like the land they work. They did not stimulate me, nor, judging by the

polite silences over meals, did I stimulate them.

There are few frills and not many smiles. Houses are houses: four walls, a roof, a patch of land for growing food and keeping a pig. On a grander scale, both sacred and secular, the architecture has the fine presence and balance of 16th to 18th-century colonial style. Ponta Delgada's Church of São Sebastião is a classic example.

There are mosaic pavements, cobbled streets, marvellously shaped wrought-iron balconies, and everywhere a serene tranquillity. There is the sound of wind, the clop of hoofs, the swish of rain.

It is an enchanting scenery. I am thinking particularly of the two great lakes, Lagoa Verde and Lagoa Azul; and of the Pico de Carvão at the island's heart. I am thinking, also, of fishing villages, such as Ribeira Quente, where the quicksilver flash of the morning haul dapples the quay in a wealthy light.

The game fishing and breezes puffing up the sails of yachts... the frank, friendly laughter of folk-dancers... mouth-watering cuisine... I quote from the brochure to make sure I get it right. Because, as you may have guessed, I am beginning to excavate for reasons to lure me back for a further 48 hours.

I am not convinced that the following is an utterly compelling reason, but on my second and final evening Professor Luciano invited me to the house of his daughter and son-in-law. The light was perfect; from their sitting room the sea looked tranquil, the landscape contained no horrors.

After a while a jug of orange squash was served, with a bowl of those chess supermarket confections that taste of soiled linen. *Bizarras* was on telly. They asked for my impressions of their island, while I tipped through a home-span web of euphemism. And if, marginally, I was bored, I know I had only myself to blame.

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TRAVEL

Mountains and water provide a stunning backdrop to Orta, John Mair writes

Lapping up the legend of a lake

The Italian girl on the airport bus seemed puzzled. "Which lake?" she asked. "Orta," I replied, slowly and clearly. "Ah, yes," she answered, "I think I know of it."

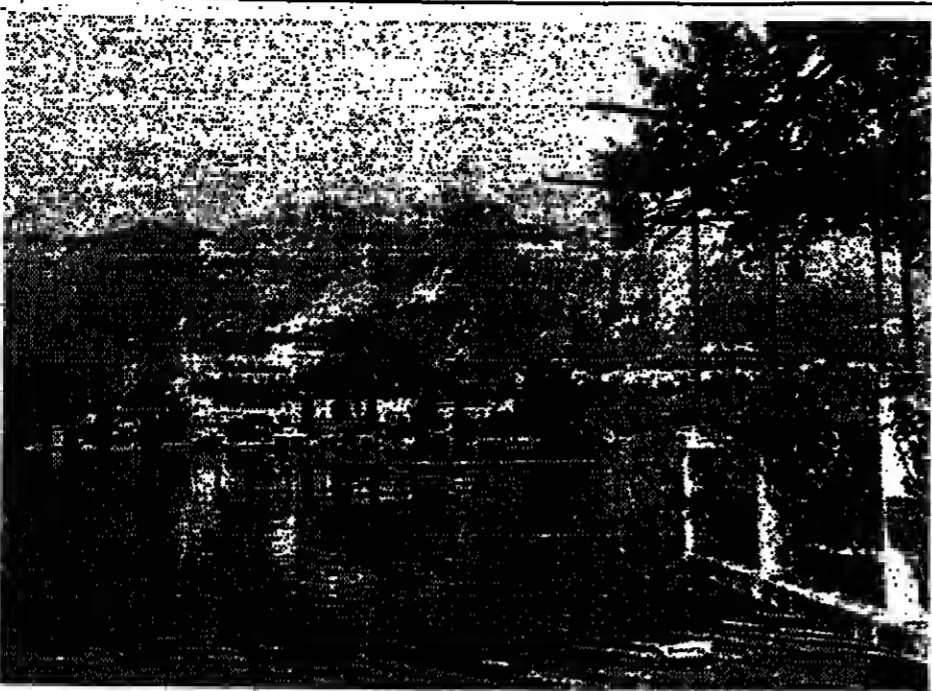
It came as no surprise to learn that Lake Orta is not as well known as its larger and more marketable neighbours, Maggiore and Como, whose shorelines support grand hotels and impressive boulevards. The mountains plunge more rapidly to Lake Orta, leaving little space for large-scale schemes on its eastern and western shores. And there is a gentler, less dramatic aspect to the scenery round the lake.

That is not to say that Orta's tourist potential has been undervalued. The important thing is that it has not been overvalued. The place and the people seem to preserve a distinctly uncommercial, natural air which simply defies exploitation - and does not seem to exploit visitors.

Certainly there is nothing gaudy about the way the place sells itself. Whether you are in one of the neat little lakeside towns such as Pettenuasco, or in one of the mountain villages where narrow roads taper away to nothingness - between apparently dangerously bulging walls, the rhythms of the day remain undisturbed by any strangers who happen to drop in.

Lunchtime is a clatter of cutlery on plate, afternoon a silence disturbed only by children's voices, and early evening the time the real business of the day seems to get done, whether in a shop or over a drink in a local cafe.

The focal point of this peaceful green world is a small peninsula on the lake's western shore. There stands the town of Orta, and some half-



No snakes or dragons: the tiny island of San Giulio, where unseen nuns chant in Latin

mile offshore lies the tiny island of San Giulio. The effect is quietly remarkable.

In particular the view of the island from Orta has one drooping and oohing and aching. There in the shimmering lake, with a dramatic backdrop of mountains, sits a biggedy-piggledy collection of ancient villas clinging to the central Basilica.

We sat in the piazza facing the island munching breakfast panini and drinking coffee to savour the view in the morning light.

We promenade across the piazza as the dying sun glowed on the church tower atop the island, and we washed down dinner marvelling at the different aspects of the island thrown up by the flood-lighting. It drew us again and again.

Orta's traditional attraction was created by a religious legend, The Greek Julius, who

gave the island its name, is said to have crossed the narrow strip of water on his cloak and rid the island of snakes and dragons. And there he established his 100th church.

It is impossible not to be moved by the extraordinary atmosphere of the present church (12th century) with its magnificent medieval frescoes and an elaborately carved marble pulpit. We attended the early evening service, when the unseen choir of nuns chanted in Latin. The voices seemed to come from the dome of the place and drift down in a hollow, steely echo.

Later our eyes would turn to the island as the bell of the Basilica rang, and we would hear the voices of the nuns again.

From the main square, where tables spill out from the

many cafes and restaurants a steep road, partly-stepped, leads towards Orta's other notable site - the Sacro Monte. On this sacred wooded hill stand 20 chapels dedicated to St Francis of Assisi. Both the setting and the enterprise, which was completed in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, share a profound sense of the theatrical. The chapels are decorated in various ways, but most strikingly by the use of painted statues in realistic scenes.

It is as if some Renaissance painting had become three-dimensional and the whole effect is of a peculiar degree of devotion, not only to a religious ideal, but also to a sort of artistic eccentricity.

But one comes to expect little other of Orta. Throughout the town, even the most doggedly prosaic mentality becomes aware of how the balconies and doorways frame one inspirational view after another.

And when it all gets too much (well, not it exactly, but the hordes clamouring to share it on the national holiday weekend, for instance) there is always escape up the mountains or out on to the lake in a small boat to discover it from a new perspective.



TRAVEL NOTES
The Travel Club of Uppminster, Station Road, Uppminster, Essex (Uppminster 25000) offer hotel and apartment holidays in Orta, San Giulio and Pettenuasco with flights from Gatwick to Milan Malpensa. Prices for two-week holidays range from £222 to £470 per person.

Long haul lowdown

TRAVEL NEWS

Substantial price cuts are emerging on long-haul holidays. Speedbird Holidays customers travelling to Thailand in May and June will be given a price reduction of £55 to £495 per adult on the starting price for a week in Bangkok. Speedbird is also giving reductions of up to £100 at three hotels in the Seychelles for departures during April, May and June.

Pan American is giving discounts of £65 on fly-drive

holidays in Florida and £80 on the West Coast for most departures between April 14 and June 30, while Virgin Holidays is cutting up to £100 off Florida holiday prices from June 1.

Holidays for ornithologists are offered in a new programme from Branta Travel. They include a four-day sea-watching trip between Plymouth and Brestoff and then on to Cork, with the chance to see "thousands" of Manx shearwaters, as well as an eight-day holiday to Sweden with a visit to Falsterbo for the mass migration of birds of prey. Information on 01-229 7231.

East meets West
Holidays in East and West Germany are brought together in a new programme from London-based GTF Tours. A seven-day guided coach tour of East Germany, added on to a Berlin visit, costs from £210.

Philip Ray

THE TIMES COOK

Forgoing the fat of the land

Shona Crawford Poole reports a return to rationing for today's canny cooks



Healthy eating has always been the principal concern of cookery books. Preserving the fat season's bounty for the lean season's subsistence was expertise on which our ancestors depended absolutely. And in many parts of a world still plagued by famine, getting enough to eat all year round is far from certain yet.

But for Britain in the 1980s healthy eating means adopting new ideas about what is good for us. We are instructed to cut down on the very foodstuffs that no time ago parents were pleased to be able to afford in feed their children. Instead of worrying about adequate quantities of protein and vitamins, today's conscientious provider ruminates dishes rich in fat, sugar and salt.

From the cook's point of view it is a demanding switch, and publishers have been quick to respond with books like *Cuisine Nouvelle* by Annon Moismann, *The Mediterranean Diet* by Robin Howe, and *The Guiltless Gourmet* by David Mabey. They were joined last month by Caroline Waldegrave's *The Healthy Gourmet* (Graffon Books, £8.95) from which this week's recipes are taken.

As the principal of Leith's School of Food and Wine, wife of William Waldegrave MP and mother of two small daughters, Caroline Waldegrave has no time for fussy food. Her recipes are exceptionally straightforward, and the nutritional notes in the introduction provide useful information for those who wish to bring their own recipes into line with the latest thinking.

Fennel and walnut salad
Serves four
2 bulbs of fennel
55g (2 oz) fresh walnuts, weighed after shelling
For the salad dressing
4 tablespoons fromage blanc or 3 of natural yogurt
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
Chopped fresh chives to taste

Remove the tough outside leaves of the fennel and discard. Cut off the feathery tops and keep for decoration. Cut the fennel into long strips. Simmer the fennel in water for two minutes. Rinse it under running cold water and drain it well.

Pick off as much skin as possible from the walnuts and chop them roughly. Mix the dressing ingredients well then stir in the fennel and walnuts. File into a serving dish and decorate with chopped fennel tops.

Serve as a first course or with fish.
Fresh sardines are inexpensive and full of flavour, but they can be fiddly to eat, which is why Caroline Waldegrave bones them for her guests.

Grilled Sardines
Serves four
16 fresh sardines
Sunflower oil for grilling
1 lemon
Small bunch of parsley
Freshly ground black pepper

To clean the sardines: slit along the belly and remove the innards. Rinse the fish under running cold water and with a

little salt gently rub away any black matter in the cavity. Cut off the gills.

Snip the back bone just below the head and above the tail and carefully pull it out.

Cut the lemon in half and remove all the rind and pith from one half. Cut this half into 16 and put a piece, along with a sprig of parsley, into the cavity of each sardine. Squeeze the juice from the other lemon half.

Heat up the grill. Score the sardines with three or four diagonal cuts on each side; brush them with a little oil. Season with black pepper and sprinkle with lemon juice.

Grill the sardines for about four minutes on each side, brushing them with the hot oil and juices that run from the fish.

Lay the sardines on a warmed platter. Pour over the juices from the grill pan and serve at once.

Hot apricot pots call for quark, a fresh skimmed milk cheese that can be found in most delicatessens. Choose the variety with the fewest calories.

Hot apricot pots
Serves four
55g (2oz) good quality dried apricots
150ml (1/2 pint) water
4 cardamom pods, cracked
110g (4 oz) quark
1 egg
150ml (1/2 pint) skimmed milk

Soak the apricots in cold water for 2 hours, then drain them. Simmer the apricots in the water with the cardamom pods until the fruit is tender, about 20 minutes, then remove the cardamoms.

Pound the apricots, ideally in a food processor, with the quark cheese. Add the egg - don't worry if it looks as though it will not mix, it does. Gradually add the milk.

Pour the mixture into 4 small ramekin dishes and set them in another larger tin or dish. Pour in boiling water to come at least half way up the sides of the ramekins. Bake the hot pots in a bain marie in a preheated cook oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for about 40 minutes, or until set.

IN THE GARDEN

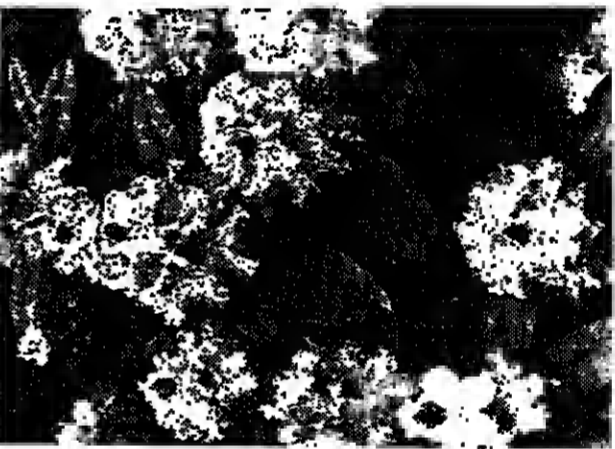
Moving time for the evergreens

Growth is now apparent in all parts of the garden. Buds on the deciduous trees and shrubs are swelling and there is just a hint of green. This is the sign I look for when I begin to consider transplanting or replanting evergreens which are the backbone of many gardens.

Evergreens will often suffer if they are moved at the same time as deciduous plants, in other words during the winter or dormant period. Being evergreen they are never completely dormant, but growth slows down considerably in the winter. If moved in the cold weather a change in their circumstances can be enough to allow the elements to work on the plant.

April is the best time of the year in which to move evergreens; another good time is September when the ground is still warm and the plants are making both top and root growth.

Preparation is all-important. Good quality evergreens are expensive to buy and they are easily lost if not looked after properly. It is absolutely essential to look carefully at the plants you are buying. Go to a reputable firm and ask if the plants have been container grown; this means they were put into their pots when young and have been growing for



Old faithfuls: rhododendrons, the ever popular evergreens

some months in the container and not simply placed there just prior to going on sale. If a plant comes easily out of its container with a lot of loose soil, the chances are that it has not been grown in the container; don't buy it.

Prepare the ground before planting. For trees or large shrubs, dig a hole which is at least 2 feet square and two spits deep. In most cases the soil on site is perfectly good; sometimes, however, it may be necessary to import good quality top soil. Add good quality farmyard manure to the bottom spit and mix this in to the soil. Never leave

ground is universally wet; if the container is dry the plant must be watered before it is replanted.

The worst enemy of newly planted evergreens is a cold drying wind. If at all possible, plant where they have protection from existing plants. If not, erect screens on the side from which the winds attack. This can be strips of plastic or hessian. The screen should allow some of the wind through but break the main force. This will allow the plants to get over their first few weeks without experiencing too much dehydration.

There are products on the market which can be sprayed onto plants to cut down transpiration loss. Synchemicals have a spray called S600 which is best applied to the plants before they are lifted, but it can be applied at any time to cut down water loss from the plant.

Ashley Stephenson

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OUT AND ABOUT

Charm that never changes

Cartoonist Linley Sambourne and his family have stoically resisted all fashions in interior design, leaving a home that has changed little since the early 1900s, writes Nigel Andrew

Who was Linley Sambourne? The principal cartoonist of Punch at the turn of the century and an extremely skilful worker in black-and-white with a bent for the grotesque and fantastical. It is unlikely that he would be much remembered now, but for one extraordinary fact — the survival, virtually unchanged and intact, of his family house, built in the 1870s in a tall, prosperous Kensington terrace.

It is easy to talk about "stepping back in time". But this house does genuinely offer something of that illusion. Perhaps the reason is that not only did it stay in the Sambourne family, but that the family consciously resisted all the pressures of changing fashion and left the place almost exactly as it was.

Linley Sambourne himself is powerfully present — a good-humoured, sociable man whose attitude to his art was strictly professional, who enjoyed his family and friends, and rather fancied himself as a country gentleman.

His son Roy perhaps inherited the pleasure-loving side of his father's temperament, but after a mildly mis-spent youth, settled down to a quiet bachelor life, sustained by many dozens of signed photographs of pretty actresses — all of which are still to be seen.

Sambourne's daughter Maud (Mrs L. C. R. Messel) inherited the house and maintained it unchanged until her death in 1960. Then her daughter Lady Rosse took it over and continued to care for it in the same spirit until 1978, when she and the Earl offered it to the nation.

A deal was struck whereby the GLC bought the house with the aid of a Land Fund grant. They handed it over to

the Victorian Society to administer and it was opened to the public in 1980.

So that is how an "artistic" family home of the late-Victorian period has come down to us, not as a laborious academic reconstruction, but simply as it has always been. Of course, there have been minor concessions to the 20th century — in plumbing and wiring, a basement caretaker's flat, some modified top-floor rooms — but the extent to which the house remains unchanged can be judged from the minutely-detailed inventory which has survived, almost every item of which is in situ.

Photographs of the house also demonstrate that everything remains just so, right down to the precise positions of the huge numbers of pictures which cover every available surface.

These pictures are mostly of endearingly poor quality many monochrome reproductions of works popular at the time, and photographs of classical sculpture — but there are also works by Sambourne's fellow professionals — Du Maurier, Sala, Walter Crane, Kate Greenaway, Phil May — and several specimens of Sambourne's bravura style.

Where it is visible, the wallpaper is splendid — William Morris "Pomegranate" throughout the ground floor — and there is a lot of pretty stained glass at the rear of the house. In the bay window of the first-floor landing is an aquarium with a fountain.

Perhaps the most remarkable collection is the immense archive of photographic references, painstakingly filed and classified by Sambourne. These fill drawers after drawers of a large cabinet standing near his easel and camera at



Gentleman's residence: (clockwise from top left) exterior of the house in Stafford Terrace; stained glass window in the back door; cartoons in a bound volume of Punch; bathroom lined with photographs; Linley Sambourne and his camera and easel

the end of the large drawing room. Everywhere the impression is of great decorative richness and complexity, but it is seldom oppressive: the rooms are large, and lightened by the simplicities of blue-and-white china and Georgian and Regency furniture — some genuine, some Victorian pastiche. In terms of decor, the whole house is a compendium of the

educated taste of its period. But if it were only that, it would be not more than a museum: what gives it its unique flavour is the sense of continuous occupation by a remarkable family. It was only recently that the little reversible brass plate by the front door was discovered, with its legend "Mr Linley Sambourne is not at home". That is now the first thing you

notice, and after that the doormat saying "Salve", and after that — well it's like stepping back in ...

Linley Sambourne House, 18 Stafford Terrace, London W8. Open until Oct 31, Wed 10am-4pm, Sun 2-5pm. Parties by appointment only. Admission £1.50. Apply to the Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 (01-994 1019).

COLLECTING

A naughty nymph is rather tempting

What looks like an ordinary wood carving of a Greek goddess may be a valuable caryatid

"I offered this heathen wood-carving to our vicar for a jumble sale," said the owner, "but he felt that the harnessed head of a demon below the poor woman's midriff might strike the wrong note at a parochial function."

"That poor woman," said the valuer, "is Ceres, goddess of growing plants. Her cult was introduced into Rome shortly after 500BC."

"Surely this isn't ancient Roman?"

"No, it's good old English oak, or possibly good old Flemish, from about 1610."

"A large one like this, about 4ft high, probably formed part of a fireplace surround. Smaller ones were applied to bedheads and cupboards."

be elaborated on during the late Renaissance by the Mannerists."

"The what?"

"A school of artists, craftsmen and designers that included Samborn, Goujon, Gouzius, de Vries."

"Foreigners, obviously. No Englishmen, I trust?"

"Oh yes. The Elizabethans loved the style. But the craftsmen remained anonymous."

"How wise of them. When did the fashion die out?"

"Mannerism had run out of steam by about 1640, but caryatids were adapted to the neo-classical, appearing on English furniture between about 1765 and 1830 as rather demure ladies."

"And what would you advise me to do with one like this, if I can't even persuade the vicar to accept it as a gift?"

"You could sell it. A large elaborate one like this, in good condition, is worth several hundred pounds."

"Really? I suppose she is rather splendid in a pagan sort of way."

"You see? You're beginning to appreciate her. The late Lord Clark once said that Mannerism, like all forms of indecency, is irresistible."

"Kenneth Clark said that? It sounds more like Oscar Wilde. And if you're suggesting ..."

"I was about to suggest that you make your Ceres the nucleus of a collection. I've never met anyone who specialised in caryatids."

"Would there be enough variety? I wouldn't want a series of Ceres."

"You need not confine yourself to any one period, or to one material. The Mannerists are usually carved oak or walnut, but some are in stone or plaster. Many were painted originally. Small ones in bronze or silver served as handrails for vases."

"I'd like to find one depicting Anne."

"Anne? Anne who?"

"Anne Drogynous. That's what you said, wasn't it?"

Peter Philip

Joyce MacDonald



Talking point: heathen carving or classic caryatid?

HAMPSHIRE WEEKLY WALKS. Jane Austen and the Rev Gilbert White of Selborne may not seem closely associated as literary characters, but the writings of both have in common intimate descriptions of the countryside of north east Hampshire at a period some 200 years ago. Here is a walk which passes through villages figuring in their work and culminates in one of the finest views of the South Downs escarpment.

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUES FAIR: More than 120 exhibitions from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Germany. Silver, porcelain, pottery, jewellery, carpets, copper, brass, clocks, prints, paintings, drawings, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021 780 4171). Today and Mon, Tues, 11am-9pm; tomorrow and Wed, 11am-6pm.

OUTINGS. The Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London WC2 (01-405 0741). Today-Sept 30. GEOLOGICAL EVENTS: The film today's Rocks that Form on the Earth's Surface and Rocks that Form Underground, on Tues The Restless Earth and The San Andreas Fault; family workshops, involving practical work with specimens for 11-year-olds, on Mon 'The Story of Minerals' and Wed 'The Story of the Earth'.

BRIDGE. Contract's draughtsman. On October 31, 1925, the SS Finland, bound from Los Angeles to Havana, arrived in Balboa too late to pass through the Panama Canal. The delay caused no particular inconvenience to Harold Vanderbilt, the American millionaire, who with three auction-bridge-playing friends was putting the final touches to his brain-child, Contract Bridge.

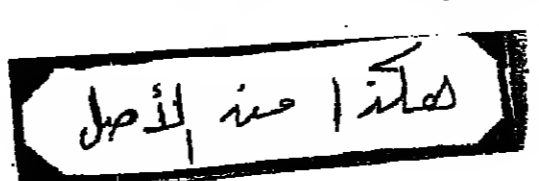
CHESS. Britain sweeps the board. The following game was a close contender for the prize. Indeed, Jim Plaskett's unusual score of five wins, eight losses, and no draws, qualified him for the Batsford Enterprise Award of a book contract with £1,000 advance.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 917). Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, April 10, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, April 12, 1986.

BRIDGE. Contract's draughtsman. complete the talented quartet. Robert Sheehan of England, generally acknowledged as one of the world's leading theoreticians. During the eight-day cruise, the famous four will compete for the Canberra Cruise World Cup. They will play 144 deals, pivoting so that they play 48 hands with each partner.

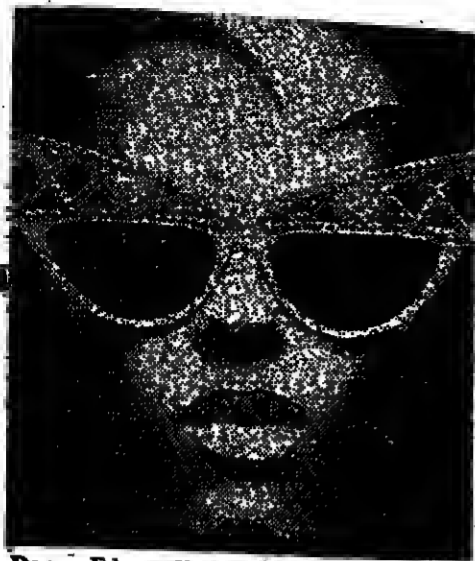
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INTERESTED IN CHESS? WELCOME TO THE CLUB. Out now, the Petros & Winfield Chess Club calendar for the Summer 1986 has the classic chess board available to members. It features a full range of chess-related information, including details of tournaments, methods of play, and a complimentary chess set.



SHOPPING

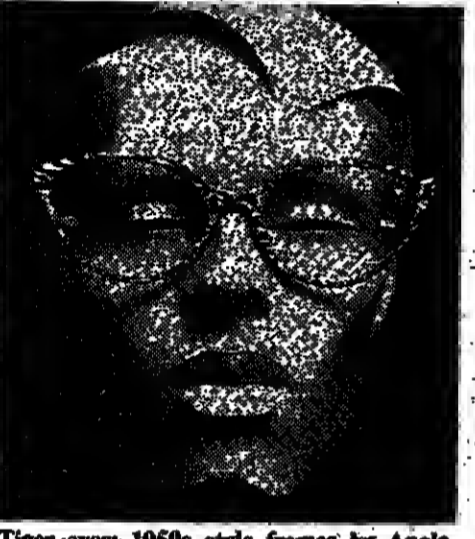
About 1,000 optical shops have opened since the change in the law on the sale of glasses, but has the consumer benefited?



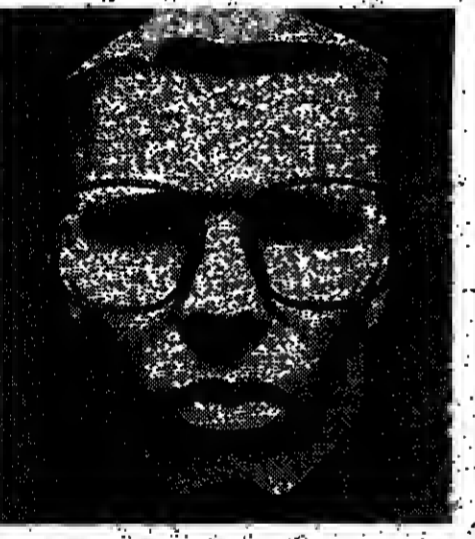
Dame Edna: diamonds extravaganza by Mikki, £233.20 at Dollond & Aitchison



Rosy glow: fine metal frames in deep pink by Silhouette, £180 at For Eyes



Tiger eyes: 1950s style frames by Anglo American, £42.95 at Dollond & Aitchison



All square: brown and beige tortoiseshell effect by Christian Dior, £65 at For Eyes



In the round: the Billy Baxter round-eyed look in red or blue plastic may not be original but it is the latest Unisex style, price £49.50 from For Eyes



Crazy, man: crossed guitars by American Optical, £36.95 at Dollond & Aitchison



Blue chip: rimless blue glass held by gold 'antlers' by Polaris, £180 at For Eyes



Black looks: aviator style in matt black by Silhouette, £99.50 at For Eyes



In the pink: Fab Two's pale pink plastic frames, £19.95 at Dollond & Aitchison

Eye-catching spectacle

A year ago opticians shook off their professional shackles. From April 1, 1985 they were allowed to advertise, to price their wares, to compete in a free market-place unhampered by the demands of the National Health Service. Prices will come down, said the optimists. So will standards, warned the pessimists. Who was right?

One fear does not seem to have been fulfilled - that unqualified traders at garages and supermarkets would be handing out cheap all-purpose spectacles to people who could afford nothing better once their right to National Health spectacles was withdrawn.

About 1,000 new optical shops have opened during the past year and less than half have been unregistered (without a qualified optician on the premises). Dick Harris, chairman of the Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians, sees them as a threat to registered opticians rather than to the public's eyes.

"There has been a 12 1/2 per cent increase in outlets but nothing like that in demand", he says. "It's a myth that people buy several pairs of spectacles to match different outfits. Unregistered outlets have lower overheads because they need no qualified staff. In the increasingly competitive climate, registered opticians who cannot achieve a large enough volume of sales will go to the wall."

Beryl Downing looks at how fierce high-street competition has affected the cost and changing fashion of frames

Competition appears to have brought a much wider choice of frames in the lower price ranges, but the main reason for any reduction in prices, say the opticians, is that they are no longer having to run part of their businesses at NHS rates.

"To hybrid NHS spectacles (where the customer chooses a more expensive frame, but has NHS lenses) the extra amount the customers were paying was sometimes not the total amount the opticians were allowed to keep, so they were virtually collecting extra money for the NHS", Dick Harris said.

Hybrids and other NHS spectacles accounted for 30 per cent of their business - and after the introduction of the 924 frame, which was more attractive and fashionable, it went up to 50 per cent. I know of no other business which has that sort of loss leader, and it isn't surprising that the cost of private spectacles was high to make up for it. Now the necessity has been removed, prices have come down."

Even so, the average price paid for spectacles has risen. A year ago it was £35, now it is £45, although it is possible to have attractive frames fitted with straightforward prescriptions for as little as £24.95, or £19.95 for a complex lens (this

at Dollond & Aitchison, the country's largest group of opticians.)

Since the new legislation last year those entitled to National Health spectacles are now only children and those on Social Security. In July the system will change and the same groups will receive a voucher from the optician of their choice, to be put towards the cost of spectacles. The value of the voucher has not yet been decided, but it will be, it is said, sufficient for a basic pair of spectacles. National Health eye tests will continue to be available annually, free for everyone.

The greatest improvements in spectacle-buying are speed, wider choice and price-labelling you know even before an eye test just what you will be expected to pay. It was always a mystery that people selling a product were not allowed to show what it cost. Most opticians have welcomed the change and have responded

positively to the trading opportunities it offers.

The ability to wander in to a spectacle shop and try on a selection of frames without an appointment, and without feeling any sense of being in a shrine is another great boon - so popular that Dollond & Aitchison have opened Europe's first optical department store, Eyeland House, near Birmingham.

It has 2,000 sq ft of optical departments for men, women and children, plus ranges of sunglasses and protective and specialist eyewear. There is a choice of more than 3,000 frames and a team of qualified opticians to test and fit.

A new idea is a video to help with your choice. It will take pictures of you wearing various types of frames and if you still cannot decide you can take a Polaroid picture home for a second opinion.

Eyeland also provides an emergency service from 8am to 7pm Mondays to Fridays and until 5.30pm on Saturdays. Broken or lost spectacles can be replaced within an hour. Eyeland House is near Birmingham and more stores are planned this year.

Speed has always been one of the services offered by Stephen Isaacs, who describes himself as "to the head adorn-

ment business". Isaacs, of For Eyes in London, was one of the defacto pioneers of modern spectacle-selling, who risked the wrath of the General Optical Council by putting prices on his wares and by wickedly getting himself publicized in newspapers. The GOC was eventually forced to change the rules.

In spite of criticism from some conventional opticians and imitation by others, For Eyes has maintained its lead in fashion spectacles at reasonable prices.

The latest trend is towards new materials and old shapes. Epoxy resin is easy to mould back into shape when damaged and is said to be third lighter than any other plastic. Another 30 per cent lighter than the resin is titanium, which is also flexible and unbreakable. This, plus plastic lenses, is the perfect answer for people who cannot bear pressure on the bridge of the nose.

What shape? Most people choose spectacles to suit the shape of their face rather than the whim of fashion, but for those who like to set trends, the 1950s are back in style, with upswept frames ranging from the discreet to the Dame Edna. The other shape of the season is the small, round frame in tortoiseshell or transparent plastic. The colours may be new - cherry reds and barbell blue, but the style is remarkably reminiscent of - dare I suggest? - the NHS.

Eyeland House, 1,323 Coventry Road, Yardley, near Birmingham (021-707 8177). For Eyes, 21 James Street, London WC2 (01-240 1780) and branches at Chesham, High Holborn and Golders Green. Mannequin heads by Panache, London W1. Pictures by Charles Milligan

EATING OUT

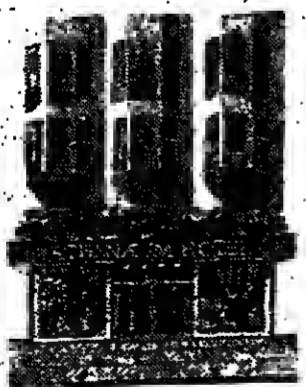
All set for the grand hotel

Childhood nightmares of eating in hotels - sitting stiff-backed in silence while munching through waterlogged spinach and burnt roast potatoes - have been all but expunged by my more recent experiences of hotel dining-rooms.

Led by the likes of Anton Mosimann at the Dorchester, chefs based in hotel kitchens have been earning as much recognition, if not more, than their colleagues in individual restaurants and the restaurant-going public recognizes that the hotel dining-room is no longer an unfashionable or over-priced alternative to the local bistro.

One of the devices that has been used to great advantage is the fixed-price meal, allowing customers to enjoy the generally superior comfort of a hotel at rates more suited to the confined spaces of a restaurant.

The Athenaeum Hotel, situated at the Hyde Park end of Piccadilly, is a perfect example. There is an appealing à la carte menu, but the business lunch is so comprehensive and such good value - two or three courses, coffee, wine and service for £15.50 or £17.50 - that it is more convenient to choose from that. Nor is choice restricted by the fixed price. The starters offer a range of light and savoury options, from leek and spinach gratin to a pungent, moist game terrine, served with Cumberland sauce.



Spinach and cheese - and six creations involving meat, offal or game.

The dessert trolley is a supreme temptation to go beyond the £15.50, two-course limit, with strawberry-flavoured zabaglione and chocolate truffle torte proving irresistible. Cheeses are well represented in the English farmhouse/high-class French import style.

The wines included in the set lunch are far from negligible either - a light but fruity Bordeaux supérieur, Chateau Montepesic, is the red option. Service is well-drilled and attentive without being starchy.

Dukes Hotel, set in a quiet courtyard off bustling St James's Place, offers equally good value at lunchtime: in

FOOD NOTES

Athenaeum Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-499 3484). Open: Mon-Sat 12.30-3pm and 6-10.30pm; Sun 12.30-2.30pm and 7-10pm. Dukes Hotel, St James's Place, London SW1 (01-491 4840). Open daily 12.30-2.30pm and 6-10pm (Sun, 7-10pm).

DRINK

Winning the battle over Bordeaux

APRIL WINES

The campaign by UK wine merchants to hold down Bordeaux proprietors' charges for their 1985 clarets seems to be succeeding. Most chateaux owners are releasing their wines at the same prices as for '84 vintages - or with merely marginal mark-ups.

Admirers of cru classe Bordeaux who like to buy early, and cheaply, still have time to send for the Hungerford Wine Company's offer for the '85 clarets, which I wrote about two weeks ago. Hungerford have extended the closing date to April 14.

Unfortunately many chateaux are releasing only small quantities of their en primeur clarets - about as little as they released in 1984. These limited quantities and a strong demand inevitably created a seller's market.

An unpalatable aspect of the early trading of the 1985 Bordeaux vintage is the attempt by many negociants to job off their mossy mediocre '84s and '85s together. They will not deal with UK merchants who did not buy the '84s, unless they are prepared to buy them now - in addition to the '85s.

Bordeaux lovers are therefore well-advised to buy early. As yet, very few of our wine merchants have made Bordeaux 1985 offers. Those who have include Caves de la Madeleine, 301 Fulham Road, London SW10; The Hungerford Wine Company, 128 High Street, Hungerford, Berks; Kersting's Wine Warehouse, 2 Canfield Gardens,

London NW6 and David Baillie Vintners, 86 Longbrook Street, Exeter, Devon. April is also a good month to oosume the last of the winter reds before moving on to the first of the spring and summer wines. After a Budget eye test just what you will be expected to pay. It was always a mystery that people selling a product were not allowed to show what it cost. Most opticians have welcomed the change and have responded

positively to the trading opportunities it offers. The ability to wander in to a spectacle shop and try on a selection of frames without an appointment, and without feeling any sense of being in a shrine is another great boon - so popular that Dollond & Aitchison have opened Europe's first optical department store, Eyeland House, near Birmingham.

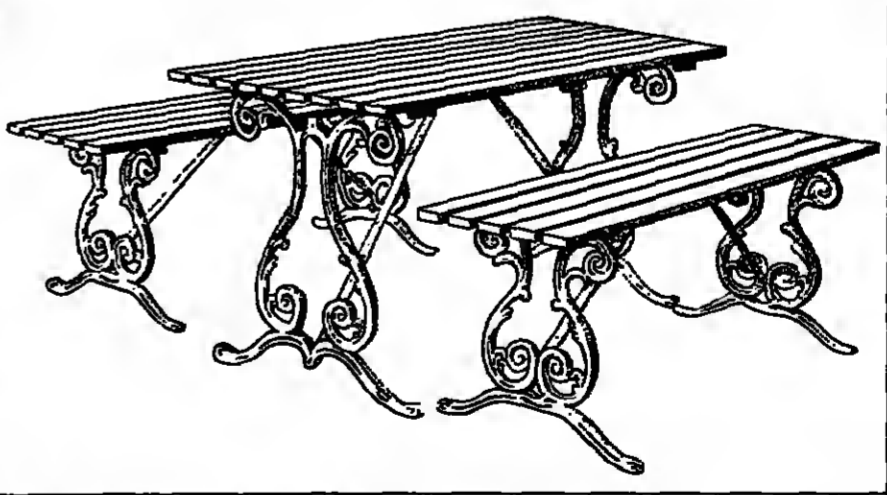
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Speed has always been one of the services offered by Stephen Isaacs, who describes himself as "to the head adorn-

STYLISH GARDEN FURNITURE



This beautifully designed set of table and benches will remain a classic for many years to come.

Cast-iron furniture is always elegant to look at but has the disadvantage of being heavy and prone to rusting. The set of furniture offered here, however, is made using a high silicon aluminium alloy which is very durable yet relatively light. The furniture is finished in an electrostatically applied polyester powder to produce a highly chip and scratch resistant coating. The table and bench tops are made from specially treated Iroko hardwood slats and the set is supplied with instructions for easy home assembly.

Made in the U.K., the table measures 27" high, 25" wide and 51" long and the two benches measure 19" high,

14" wide and 51" long.

This set of table and benches will make eating out in the garden a pleasure; the perfect combination of elegance and twentieth century craftsmanship.

Price - Table and two Benches: £210.00

All prices are inclusive of post and packing. Please allow up to 21 days for delivery. If you are not satisfied The Times will refund your money without question.

Orders and enquiries should be sent to: THE TIMES GARDEN FURNITURE OFFER, BOURNE ROAD, BEXLEY, KENT DA5 1BL. Tel: Crayford 53316 for enquiries only.

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LONDON HANDEL FESTIVAL. St. George's Hanover Square London W1. Listings for various Handel operas and concertos.

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LSO LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Tonight 7.45pm. Listings for Brahms and Dvorak.

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents. SATURDAY NEXT 12 APRIL at 8 pm. Listings for Glinka-Handel-Rachmaninov-Beethoven.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. TONIGHT at 7.30 pm. OPERA GALA NIGHT. Listings for various operas.

WIGMORE HALL. Listings for various music events including chamber music and recitals.

LSO LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. MYUNG WHUN CHUNG conductor. Listings for Rozhdestvensky.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING. Listings for various music events including symphonies and concertos.

THEATRE. Listings for various theatrical performances including plays and musicals.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. RAYMOND GUBBAY presents. TONIGHT at 7.30 pm. OPERA GALA NIGHT. Listings for various operas.

WIGMORE HALL. Listings for various music events including chamber music and recitals.

LSO LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. MYUNG WHUN CHUNG conductor. Listings for Rozhdestvensky.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING. Listings for various music events including symphonies and concertos.

THEATRE. Listings for various theatrical performances including plays and musicals.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. RAYMOND GUBBAY presents. SATURDAY 26 APRIL at 7.30 pm. MOZART-HANDEL-GRIEG-BEETHOVEN. Listings for various operas.

WIGMORE HALL. Listings for various music events including chamber music and recitals.

LSO LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. MYUNG WHUN CHUNG conductor. Listings for Rozhdestvensky.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING. Listings for various music events including symphonies and concertos.

THEATRE. Listings for various theatrical performances including plays and musicals.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. RAYMOND GUBBAY presents. MONDAY 5 MAY at 7.30 pm. THE MAGIC OF DOYLY CARTE. Listings for various operas.

WIGMORE HALL. Listings for various music events including chamber music and recitals.

LSO LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. MYUNG WHUN CHUNG conductor. Listings for Rozhdestvensky.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING. Listings for various music events including symphonies and concertos.

THEATRE. Listings for various theatrical performances including plays and musicals.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL. TOMORROW at 3 pm. ANNIE FISCHER. Listings for various music events.

WIGMORE HALL. Listings for various music events including chamber music and recitals.

LSO LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. MYUNG WHUN CHUNG conductor. Listings for Rozhdestvensky.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING. Listings for various music events including symphonies and concertos.

THEATRE. Listings for various theatrical performances including plays and musicals.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. MONDAY NEXT 7 APRIL at 7.45 pm. KEN SASAKI piano. Listings for various music events.

WIGMORE HALL. Listings for various music events including chamber music and recitals.

LSO LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. MYUNG WHUN CHUNG conductor. Listings for Rozhdestvensky.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING. Listings for various music events including symphonies and concertos.

THEATRE. Listings for various theatrical performances including plays and musicals.

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Paperbacks

REVIEW

Royal routes and branches

The Queen Observed edited by Trevor Grove (Pavilion, £9.95) The Royal 100 by Alan Hamilton (Pavilion, £8.95)

The Queen's sixtieth birthday looms and, predictably, authors and publishers seek ways of celebrating it. Pavilion have produced two books that do not conform to the obvious version of a royal book.

The Queen Observed contains essays by a team of distinguished writers from The Observer. Because they are intelligent and not royal experts, they feel able to be somewhat rude at times, before bracing up their perorations and concluding that the Queen "is a good thing".

Thus Ann Barr refers to our dry-biscuit Queen, Clancy Sigal writes of her "unthreatening dowdiness", and Katharine Whitehorn chides Her Majesty for looking sombre in church (without reminding us that the Queen is Head of the Church of England and thus has spiritual responsibilities to consider).

While on this happy occasion it is good to have John Grigg atoning for his outspoken behaviour in the 1950s, it is irksome that Katharine Whitehorn can only conclude that it is a good thing to have "an earth mother figure" on the throne.

However, there is interesting material in Donald Treford's article on the Press and the Palace, and Hugh McIlvenney is very jolly on the racing, with good quotes from Lord Perth.

At times I felt that the pieces were uninspiring — Simon Hoggart revamping material from the 1955 tour of the West Indies, and Alan Watkins doing a nifty précis of his findings in Volume II of The Crossman Diaries.

Alas, too, there are three occasions in "one of the best photo collections ever assembled" (the blurb), when the Queen is observed back-to-front, the glorious colour slides having been printed in reverse.



Her kingdom for a horse? The Queen shares a love of horses with many of her relatives. She is pictured here at Windsor in 1956, with Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

in the last essay Simon Hoggart says of the Queen: "She has three basic expressions: a dour glare very much on a scowl, delight and lively interest". I doubt the latter two would be much in evidence were Her Majesty to perseuse this volume.

Alan Hamilton's The Royal 100 is a brave attempt to do something about the first 100 people in line of succession to the throne. I have never dared commit myself beyond the troubled patch of the Lascellises.

I felt that Mr Hamilton would get into deep water sooner or later, and while he is dextrous in unravelling each new line, he must have had

numerous headaches while preparing this book.

Of course it is all academic, and it would take a tragedy of prodigious proportions to place somebody like Ulf Bauscher (number 86) on our throne.

Interestingly, all the 100 descend either from Edward VII or from his brother Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh. Thus, technical members of the Royal Family like the Ramsays and Abel Smiths are well out of the running.

Mr Hamilton set himself a doubly difficult task by feeling that he had to say something about each and every one of the 100, and very quickly discovered that there really is nothing to say about some of the candidates. At these points he resorts to phrases such as: "Like his cousin Nicholas, born in the same year, he enters the line of succession". His book is not without

errors. Lady Helen Windsor does not work for a Bond Street auctioneer, but for a King Street one (Christie's). Edward Lascelles is not a plain "Mr"; as the son of a Viscount he is an "Hon". The wife of Henry Lascelles is omitted from an otherwise detailed book. The five children were Highnesses (HRH) — Alexandra, Duchess of Fife, becoming an HRH only on marrying Prince Arthur of Connaught.

As I say, poor Mr Hamilton is in dangerous waters. However, he is to be commended on a nice accurate family tree, which is a vital guide to the many disparate branches he deals with.

After the Queen's Birthday books are safely out of the way we can, I imagine, look forward to a book of "Fergie" fever amongst our august publishing houses. I rather dread it. Hugo Vickers

THE WEEK AHEAD

Waving the flag for boys in battle

FILMS ON TV

Channel Four's success with its film and documentary seasons on the British at War and the Americans at War has persuaded it to fill the Thursday five o'clock slot for the next few weeks with a season on the Allies at War.

The formula is the same — usually a feature film followed by one or two short documentaries — but the umbrella title is not especially significant. Many of the films could just as well have been in the other seasons, and there is no underlying theme.

It starts with the 1939 film of Robert Sherwood's play Idiot's Delight (Thurs, 7pm), usually remembered for its rare glimpse of Clark Gable boozing it in white tie and tails to the music of "Puttin' on the Ritz". The serious bit has Gable, patriotic American, preaching pacifist morality to Norma Shearer, just as American but pretending to be Russian and going out with a nasty warmongering arms tycoon. She sees the error of her ways as war stars breaking out all over.

Later in the season, Western Approaches is a splendid example of what can be done without stars and with minimal resources. Made by the Crown Film Unit in 1943, it uses real merchant sailors as torpedoed merchantmen adrift and at the mercy of U-boats. The men actually had to go out to sea in little boats — their discomfort seen on the screen was real enough. The story is fictional, but the feel of the film is documentary. The Hitler Gang (1944) is a



Frontline chorus line: Clark Gable singing 'Puttin' on the Ritz' in Idiot's Delight

RECOMMENDED

The Men (1950): Marion Brando very good in his first film, as a soldier returning home a paraplegic, with the attendant social and sexual problems. He spent a month in a wheelchair preparing. Still powerful (BBC2, today, 2.05-3.25pm).

Sullivan's Travels (1941): Directed by Preston Sturges, with Joel McCrea surprisingly convincing as wealthy film director quitting to discover life on the seamy side. Effective blend of satire and social realism (Channel 4, Tues, 9.10-10.45pm).

Sleeper (1973): Woody Allen wakes up after 200 years in the deep freeze, with some doubts about the future; with the usual mix of inventive and anguished gags and one-liners. Much more hit than miss (BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.50pm).

Tirez sur le Pianiste (1960): Charles Aznavour hauntingly excellent as the meek pianist caught up in murder and protecting his brothers. In Truffaut's virtuoso homage to the Hollywood film noir (Channel 4, Wed, 10.11-11.30pm).

This is Spinal Tap (1983): Frequently funny, scabrous



Playing ball: Woody Allen at work in Sleeper

spoof on the rock-music scene, following the adventures of a British group touring the United States to promote its controversial album Smell the Glove (Channel 4, Fri, 11.15pm-12.50am).

First television showing

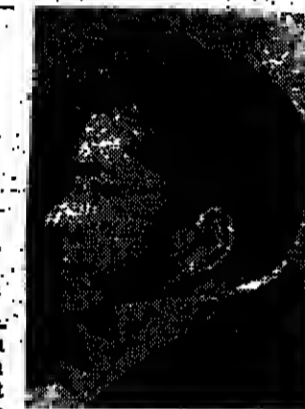
Ironic observations of life

Armanca by Stendhal, translated by G.K. Scott Moncrieff (Soho, £5.95) My Heart Laid Bare and other prose writings by Charles Baudelaire, translated by Norman Cameron (Soho, £5.95) Dominique by Eugène Fromentin, translated by Sir Edward Marsh (Soho, £4.95) Axel by Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, translated by M. Gaddis Ross (Soho, £4.95)

There has never been such a New Year's present, since a time when I was so young that everything was new. One is lucky to preserve pockets of ignorance that make these surprises possible. Here is Armanca, an early novel by Stendhal, that I had never heard of, and so good it is like watching the first race of a young horse that is going to win the Derby.

No novel by Stendhal is all that early: this was the first, and he was 43 when he wrote it, after three years of love with a very beautiful woman, which cured him of an old, long drawn-out, unhappy passion; and cured him of youth perhaps. The three years ended sadly; he wrote Armanca and took refuge in London.

His style was already laconic, ironic and full of subtle observations of life. The story is simple: hardly more than a comic. The motif of love is complicated only by social obstacles and by the mysteriously dark, maturing temperament of the young man. Action, whenever it occurs, does so with precipitate vio-



Dark mystery: Stendhal, exploring tensions

lence. "How I should like to command a gun or a steam engine", he says; and there is suppressed violence in the tension of the entire novel. When Armanca first appeared, its readers were mystified, and its hero thought crazy. Even today one might think him just another case of Byronic temperament — the novel ends with his ship in sight of Greece. His widow enters a convent; let us hope she came out again and married a successful promoter of railroads.

But the clue is printed as an appendix: a letter from Stendhal to Mérimée written just before Christmas, 1826, reveals that the essential character of the novel is impotence, and the sexual difficulties of young people.

In fact, Stendhal has mastered the subject of his masterworks, the process of growing up; and laid down one

of the secret ingredients of his style which, notwithstanding his pure clarity, is tact, knowing and conveying a great deal more about reality than he says in so many words. He is a profoundly benign writer.

Every publication 50 far from this new publishing house arouses one's curiosity. I am probably a typical customer in that I already possessed only part of the Bibliothèque, in Isherwood's brilliant version with Auden's thrilling but opinionated introduction (Faber, 1969). The present offering is much more substantial.

The best known of these books is perhaps Francis's Dominique in Edward Marsh's translation, which used to be common in second-hand bookshops. Dominique has always been admired; I think it is one of Francis Wyndham's favourite books, which says a good deal for it.

The obscurest book to most readers will surely be Axel, an un-actable poetic prose drama by Villiers de l'Isle Adam. In translation the "poetic" quality turns to cardboard, so that I opened it and closed it and shut it frustrated. Surely called it "admirable, but mad". I thought it intelligent, but intolerably affected.

The publisher's personal taste is obviously intransigent, and his range is very wide. Lyeskov, Nietzsche's letters, Pater's Marius, and George Barker's Dead Seagull are to come. The list makes one feel 100 years younger.

Peter Levi

FICTION

Portrait of an artist in Paris

Scumbler by William Wharton (Penguin, £3.95) Scumbler is an American painter living in Paris and many of the frappings of the artist-in-Paris tradition are lovingly laid out. There is included to be an aristocratic sculptor living downstairs and a Bohemian prostitute upstairs. At one point he is eating cold pizza in a bleak studio when a millionaire's wife sweeps in and begins to buy up all his paintings. Basically, however, it is more a simple story about a man coping with middle age, than one about art or Paris. Fortunately he has enough fantasies to liven things up.

The editing is fast, the commentary sharp and the glossy hi-tech images of mechanized war would do credit to a MOD recruiting film.

The fighting may be conducted in sub-committees behind closed doors, but on the evidence of the first of four parts of M.O.D. (BBC2, Wed, 8.10-9pm), it is more closely fought than the highly choreographed military manoeuvres in West Germany which the West always wins.

M.O.D. debunks much military strategy and claims that arguments in favour of increased air, sea or land power are in essence attempts by the respective services to wrest a bigger share of the defence budget.

Winter Journey by Ronald Frame (Frad Grafton, £2.50) There is often something tantalizing about a description of an adult relationship as seen through the eyes of a child. The details do not quite fit into a coherent pattern and the child's sense of powerlessness can distort as much as clarity.

In this story Anncoe, who is aged about 12, is travelling through Europe with her parents. As she sits in the back of the car she listens to her parents tearing each other apart and she recalls past events, isolated memories from her earlier childhood which help to explain the insults they are screaming at each other.

When we are told at the end that "the only history of importance is the history of what you once believed in, and what you came to believe in", it is hard to decide who has believed in what, since we are left with only the fragments of a story. Perhaps that is the point.

The Fall of Kevin Walker by Alexander Gray (Penguin, £2.95) This is a moral fable mostly about being Scottish. Kevin Walker is the product of a strict Calvinistic upbringing who suddenly arrives in London to make his name. With the innumerable assets of naivety, self-centredness and his native accent he instantly lands a job in television.

Interviewing the great and the good. He becomes rich and successful. But it is not enough: he wants to put the world to rights and that is his downfall.

His father arrives from the North to cut him down to size in a painful television interview and his girlfriend abandons him. So he returns to Scotland to become a minister of the Church and to live unhappily ever after in a state of increasing narrow-mindedness. His girlfriend on the other hand settles down happily with an artist in Ludbrook Grove. "It is easier for them", says Gray, "they are English".

Isabel Butterfield

TELEVISION

Bureaucratic battlegrounds

Volunteers for violence: Nicaraguan Sandinistas, fighting the dollar and the Contras, in The Four Horsemen

The editing is fast, the commentary sharp and the glossy hi-tech images of mechanized war would do credit to a MOD recruiting film.

M.O.D. debunks much military strategy and claims that arguments in favour of increased air, sea or land power are in essence attempts by the respective services to wrest a bigger share of the defence budget.

Winter Journey by Ronald Frame (Frad Grafton, £2.50) There is often something tantalizing about a description of an adult relationship as seen through the eyes of a child. The details do not quite fit into a coherent pattern and the child's sense of powerlessness can distort as much as clarity.

In this story Anncoe, who is aged about 12, is travelling through Europe with her parents. As she sits in the back of the car she listens to her parents tearing each other apart and she recalls past events, isolated memories from her earlier childhood which help to explain the insults they are screaming at each other.

When we are told at the end that "the only history of importance is the history of what you once believed in, and what you came to believe in", it is hard to decide who has believed in what, since we are left with only the fragments of a story. Perhaps that is the point.

The Fall of Kevin Walker by Alexander Gray (Penguin, £2.95) This is a moral fable mostly about being Scottish. Kevin Walker is the product of a strict Calvinistic upbringing who suddenly arrives in London to make his name. With the innumerable assets of naivety, self-centredness and his native accent he instantly lands a job in television.

Interviewing the great and the good. He becomes rich and successful. But it is not enough: he wants to put the world to rights and that is his downfall.

His father arrives from the North to cut him down to size in a painful television interview and his girlfriend abandons him. So he returns to Scotland to become a minister of the Church and to live unhappily ever after in a state of increasing narrow-mindedness. His girlfriend on the other hand settles down happily with an artist in Ludbrook Grove. "It is easier for them", says Gray, "they are English".

Isabel Butterfield

Magic and mischief

RADIO

This evening Radio 4 has two tales to hold children from play and older men from the chimney corner. The children are being wooed — from telly rather than play, of course — by a dramatization of Alan Garner's novel The Weirdstone of Brisingamen (7-9pm). This has been carefully timed to encourage family listening before the children go to bed — an excellent idea.

The adaptation is by The Times's own David Wade, and the cast includes Edward de Souza and two children new to radio, Andrea Murphy and Mark Kingston. The plot concerns a brother and sister who become involved in a fight for the possession of a magic jewel which has been stolen by the Forces of Evil. Plenty of wizardry and enchantment.

The grown-ups' treat is a new Saturday night thriller serial, A Judgment in Stone (9.30-9.58pm). Ruth Rendell's chilling novel inaugurates a new weekly spot, in which good modern crime and suspense fiction will be read.

Yet another Radio 4 goodie this evening — the first of a new series called The Mischief Makers (10.30-11pm). Five men who were mad, bad and

Sentence by sentence, Amis wipes the floor with all his contemporaries... a great novel!

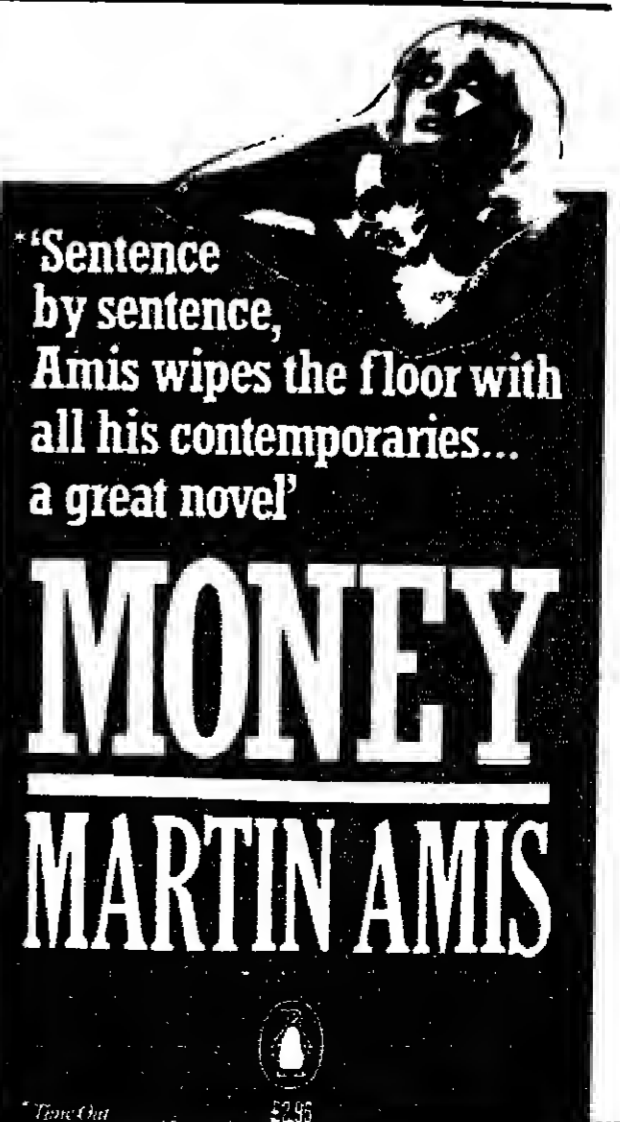
MONEY

MARTIN AMIS

dangerous to know will be featured, and the first is the odious Frederick Rolfe, also known as Baron Corvo, the author of Hadrian the Seventh and of much mischief.

Auden called him "one of the great masters of vituperation", and his victims were usually those who had initially befriended him. Margaret Howard presents this study in perversity, with Alec McCowen doing the readings.

Nigel Andrew



Sentence by sentence, Amis wipes the floor with all his contemporaries... a great novel!

MONEY MARTIN AMIS

THE WEEK AHEAD



BOOKS BRAHMS SYMPHONY: Ned Sherrin has produced an affectionate mammoth of his former writing collaborator, Caryl Brahms...



OPERA FIRST OF JUNE: June Anderson, the coloratura soprano, makes her debut with the Royal Opera...



GALLERIES FIZZ BIZ: Coca-Cola has reached the Concise Oxford Dictionary...



RADIO HEAVEN'S GATE: Mark Twain, who was born 150 years ago...



THEATRE LAUGHTER FUND: Pamela Stephenson features in Comic Relief...



DANCE STAR-CROSS'D: Gelsey Kirkland, former principal artist...

ARTSDIARY

Promise à Beckett

Typically, the Irish will be celebrating Samuel Beckett's "official" 80th birthday...

Pub scene

They're either very forgiving or very forgetful at the Old Vic. The forthcoming production of HMS Pinafore...

You have to admire the bluff approach of Cornish farmer John Southern, who owns a remarkable collection of the works of Archibald Thorburn...

Power of love

But for the romantic intervention of Henry Moore, Dame Barbara Hepworth might not be a superannuated teacher...



Moore and Hepworth was just going to do an art school course and she would have become a drawing teacher...

Silent heirs

The National Gallery is remaining tight-lipped over their latest bequest, from the will of Jeffrey Daniels...

A serious woman about the house



Paula Wilcox does not pull her punches. "The theatre," she says firmly, "is being starved of young talent..."

Paula Wilcox is back on the London stage, lured by The Beaux' Stratagem

of Dramatic Art's Richard O'Donoghue who described his establishment's attitude towards Equity's Catch 22 entry rules...

Referring to drama students being forced into pub entertainment, low-grade variety work and even stripping in order to get their Equity card...

Written by George Farquhar in 1707, The Beaux' Stratagem has considerable relevance today and is one of the earliest plays to argue for divorce...

ment because he shows two people who are ill-suited right from the start, who have deep-rooted differences of opinion...

When Miss Wilcox is outside the capital city she suffers from, if not dizziness, then certainly a strangely alien feeling...

It is now 12 years since she sprang to national prominence with her part in Man About the House...

Paula Wilcox is an intensely private actress whose name does not crop up in the gossip columns or in the lists of first-night celebrities...

Christopher Wilson The Beaux' Stratagem is at the Lyric, Hammersmith, London W8 (01-741 2311). Previews today and Mon at 7.45pm. Opens Tues at 7pm.

CONCERTS

CHUNG/LSO: Myung Whun Chung conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in Dvorak's Symphony No 7...

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW ANGRY HOUSEWIVES: British premiere of US rock musical about four housewives...

OPENINGS

TIME: Cliff Richard (above, with Jodie Wilson) in a rock musical devised and created by Dave Clark...

RELATIVELY SPEAKING: New production of Alan Ayckbourn's comedy of mistaken identity...

SELECTED

ORPHANS: Albert Finney, Kevin Anderson and Jessi Avery grace an ordinary American psycho-drama...

MEDEA: Eileen Atkins makes an impassioned and compellingly sympathetic wronged wife in Toby Robertson's stark version of Euripides...

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

David Mamet's hard-edged, acerbic vision of duplicitous Chicago estate agents at work and play...

OUT OF TOWN

CHICHESTER: Annie Get Your Gun: Pop singer Suzi Quatro, with Edmund Hookridge, Eric Flynn...

DANCE

AMERICAN BALLROOM THEATRE: Opening an American dance season at beleaguered Sadler's Wells Theatre...

ROCK AND JAZZ

DEPÊCHE MODE: Surburban electro-poppers follow Gary Numan in the footsteps of Kraftwerk...

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE LAND: The British landscape celebrated in black and white by Fay Godwin...

NOTION PICTURED: Edward Mubridge was the Victorian whose study of animals and human locomotion helped cinema develop...

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE BUXTON FESTIVAL: Booking opens this week for programme of opera, concerts, theatre, exhibitions...

LAST CHANCE

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: Last performances today of National Theatre production at 2.15 and 7.45pm...

THE TIMES CHOICE

CONCERTS

CHICHESTER: Annie Get Your Gun: Pop singer Suzi Quatro, with Edmund Hookridge...

THEATRE

LAUGHTER FUND: Pamela Stephenson features in Comic Relief Benefits, a famine-relief fundraising show...

DANCE

STAR-CROSS'D: Gelsey Kirkland, former principal artist with the American Ballet Theatre...

FILMS

OPENINGS A ROOM WITH A VIEW (PG): After David Lean's A Passage to India, the Merchant-Ivory team present an earlier E.M. Forster novel...

SELECTED

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS (15): A film with the fidgets: Visual jokes pile up and the plot, once glimpsed, is trite...

NO SURRENDER (15): Alan Bleasdale's abrasive farce set on New Year's Eve in a seedy Liverpool club...

ROCK AND JAZZ

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FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS: After three well-received singles and a hit album, Roland Gift's distinctive voice may be in danger of losing its novelty value...

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA: This is the week of the London International Opera Festival. This afternoon, free performances in Covent Garden piazza "Operation" presents a spoof Snow White...

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Concerts: Max Harrison; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Dance: John Percival; Photography: Michael Young; Films: Geoff Brown; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Opera: Hilary Fluch; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Lloyds makes surprise bid for Standard Chartered

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank, the smallest of the big four UK clearers, surprised the City yesterday with an announcement that it wanted to buy Standard Chartered, the overseas bank, creating a banking group with assets of over £70 billion.

The news sent Standard Chartered's share price racing up by 30 per cent but the bank was quick to reject the Lloyds approach, prompting speculation that a rival bid would not be long in coming.

Lloyds said that its chairman, Sir Jeremy Morse, had approached Standard Chartered asking for talks which would lead to a recommended offer for the bank worth 750p per share, valuing Standard at £1.2 billion.

The announcement sent Standard shares up well above the offered price, from 639p to 830p. Lloyds shares fell 7p to 632p although other clearing bank shares rose during the day.

There have been recurrent rumours for months about a bid for Standard but Lloyds was not considered a likely



Sir Jeremy Morse: asked for talks

contender. Mr Michael McWilliam, group managing director of Standard, said yesterday: "The approach from Lloyds has come as a surprise and is not welcomed."

Experts in the City now believe that Lloyds will almost certainly have to raise its offer and that a rival bidder is likely to come forward. Names which have been mentioned recently as possible buyers include Midland Bank, Hongkong & Shanghai, Royal Bank of Scotland and Trustee Sav-

ings Bank. A bid from a foreign bank is also thought possible. Any bid could only succeed with the approval of the Bank of England.

Mr Brian Pitman, Lloyds chief executive, said that combining with Standard Chartered would create a banking group with the widest international spread of any European banking organization. Last year Lloyds made pre-tax profits of £561 million and Standard Chartered £268 million.

"Lloyds is strong in Britain, Europe and Latin America while Standard is strong in the Far East, Middle East, Africa and the US," Mr Pitman said. "Standard has established domestic banking businesses in places where entry is now restricted - it offers us a way into markets we cannot get into ourselves."

Lloyds would offer the bid through an offer probably made up of 50 per cent cash and 50 per cent preference shares, Mr Pitman said. Following the sale of Lloyds Bank California, announced earlier this year, and other recent disposals, the bank will have £450 million in cash to invest. The purchase of Standard

would significantly reduce Lloyds' dependence on the UK market from which it earns 80 per cent of its profits. "The UK market is increasingly competitive and likely to become less profitable. The acquisition of Standard would raise our overseas earnings to around 40 per cent of total profits."

Despite its widespread international activities Standard Chartered has little exposure in Britain. It is known to want a secure UK earnings base and failed in an attempt to buy Royal Bank of Scotland five years ago. But the bank would not comment further yesterday on its reasons for rejecting the Lloyds approach.

The move would greatly increase Lloyds Bank's exposure to South Africa. Although Standard last year reduced its shareholding in Stanbic, the South African Banking operation, from 43 to 39 per cent, the group derived 12 per cent of its profits from South Africa in 1985.

There was scepticism in the City yesterday over the increased exposure to the US that Standard would bring to Lloyds.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Hillsdown cuts through the Berisford tangle

Hillsdown Holdings had been a candidate to bid for S&W Berisford ever since it built up its 10 per cent stake in the nominally larger sugar and commodities group. It did so yesterday with such acute timing that a sharp rise in its own shares raised the value of its all-share offer from £430million to nearly £480million during the course of the day. The offer, or some variation of it, has every chance of success, forming the crucial stage in the possible creation of a new diversified food group on the largest scale.

David Thompson and his partner Harry Solomon have built their empire so fast that, even after the flotation of Hillsdown last year, few outside the City are aware that its £1 billion turnover carries so much influence on the meat, poultry, egg and canned and processed food shelves of the supermarkets. That success was built on opportunistic buying of troubled companies in unaffordable businesses. Berisford falls neatly into the Hillsdown strategy, even though its main earner, the British Sugar Corporation, is in as healthy a state as market conditions will allow.

The merger of Ephraim Margulies' commodity trading interests with BSC was only just allowed by the Monopolies Commission and has in practice proved beyond the City group's management capacity. The commodity side has suffered badly recently and the board seems to have fallen out after Gordon Percival, who was put into to run BSC, tried to arrange a management buyout. In the end Mr Margulies was reduced to attempting to sell the sugar side to the

Italian Ferruzzi in a complex deal that was aimed at him leading a buyout of the recapitalised commodity arm.

In the event, Ferruzzi has sold out its interest in Berisford to Hillsdown for a 3 per cent stake and talks on co-operation in Europe and further afield, though in other foodstuffs rather than sugar. That scupper Mr Margulies' plan. The other interested party Tate & Lyle, also sitting on around 10 per cent, would certainly not be allowed to buy BSC.

Hillsdown, on the other hand, can avoid a monopoly vetoing if it wishes to honour the commitments given by Berisford. Since Berisford seemed prepared to deal with the Italians at well below the present bid price, the main question marks may well be whether Hillsdown will need to offer an underwritten cash alternative and whether, on reflection, the stock market remains so sanguine about the tremendous debt burden Hillsdown will take on. Hillsdown and its advisers Klienwort Benson are certainly aware of the problem. Kleinwort has bought Hillsdown's stake in Berisford to lessen the cash strain by converting it into shares and the bidders seem prepared to sell Berisford's property business. They may also sell the commodity trading part back to Mr Margulies or run it down. Hillsdown will want to sort the combined balance sheet out quickly for the gleam in its management's eye has already brightened on Berisford's strategic stake in Ranks Hovis MacDougall, which will no doubt be pondering defensive measures already.

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White House split widens

Unemployment figures for March have sharpened the schism between Reagan Administration officials over the good and bad effects of collapsing oil prices. The jobsless figure, at 7.2 per cent, showed a continuing weakness in the economy, especially in the manufacturing and energy sectors where 80,000 jobs were lost last month alone.

It lent public support to the views of some Administration officials, notably Vice-President George Bush and the energy secretary John Herrington, that special help is now needed for the depressed oil industry to save jobs and domestic production while avoiding a dangerous dependence on imported oil. Mr Bush and others in a sharply divided Reagan Administration support a new proposal to prop up marginal domestic producers by doubling or tripling the 50 cent a barrel excise tax on imported oil. They want to use the proceeds to buy oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve from domestic producers.

Donald Regan, the White House chief of staff, and James Baker, the

treasury secretary, are sharply opposed to the idea. Despite big sectoral weaknesses in the US economy associated with the oil price collapse, they believe that overall, and over time, the US economy will benefit greatly.

But the new jobsless figures have put pressure on the free market advocates. Despite the fact that the March figure was down in actual terms from 7.3 per cent in February, most economists say unemployment went up. The February number was an aberration, because of bad weather and flooding which reduced hiring in key industries. Without these factors, unemployment in February would have measured an estimated 7.1 per cent, up sharply from 6.7 per cent in January. Overall, since the November-January period, 500,000 jobs have been lost. The fact that this trend continued and actually increased in March is worrying to officials who believe that the good effects of the falling dollar and falling oil prices have yet to offset big weaknesses in farming, manufacturing, energy and banking.

Argyll and Brussels hold talks

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

The European Commission's competition department officials held talks this week with Argyll Group now fighting Guinness to take over the Distillers Company. It signals close interest by Brussels in the prospect of Guinness adding Distillers, Britain's biggest whisky producer, to its Bells whisky subsidiary.

The competition department is fact-finding and the talks have apparently been held in this context.

If the commission were sufficiently concerned about the effects on competition it could force any merger between Guinness and Distillers. This would be an interim measure, while the situation was fully assessed on competition grounds.

So far such a move seems unlikely but what does seem to be opening up is the prospect that longer-term competition problems might arise.

These developments have come as Argyll was refused an interim interdict, or injunction, in the Court of Session at Edinburgh in a case Argyll has brought to stop the Guinness bid for Distillers. It has been argued that a merger, under European law, would lead to abuse of a dominant position. The case will continue, Argyll said yesterday.

In Brussels it was indicated that investigations at this stage were aimed at assessing whether there was any potential problem. Guinness has already satisfied Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, that by selling off some Distillers brands to Lonrho's brand share in the United Kingdom market would be sufficiently reduced.

A more crucial factor being looked at in Brussels is the share of Scotch whisky distilling the merged companies would have. The Lonrho deal would leave distilling of the sold-off brands with Distillers. Although a 25 per cent market share is under regulation the benchmark for competition assessment to start, in practice the commission competition department regards 40 per cent or more market share as normally the crucial breakpoint.

'Sleeping giant' in the spotlight

By Alison Eadie

The £1.8 billion contested bid for Woolworth Holdings by Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, will put the spotlight firmly on the people who run the former "sleeping giant" of the high street.

The glare of publicity will be somewhat of a strain for the low key management team headed by the managing director, but well regarded chief executive Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy.

Mr Mulcahy came to Woolworth in November 1982 as part of the three man management team headed by Mr John Beckett, the former chairman of British Sugar. Mr Beckett recruited Mr Mulcahy and Mr Nigel Whittaker to British Sugar in 1977 and all three left in 1982 when S&W Berisford acquired the company after a bitter bid battle.

In November 1982 they reorganised as the new management of Woolworth, bought out from its American parent for £310 million with the backing of a consortium of financial institutions. The new management gave itself seven years to put Woolworth right, but it is now going to have to justify its performance when it is only halfway through its term.

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, has criticized the directors of Woolworth "because they are not retailers". Mr Mulcahy's academic background is in science and his business experience is largely financial. Mr Whittaker has two law degrees and was a corporate lawyer for Hoffman La Roche before joining British Sugar. The new non-executive chairman, who has replaced the recently retired Mr Beckett, is Mr Kenneth Durham, chairman of Unilever.

Although they had no retailing experience before they joined Woolworth, the directors point out that they have learnt a lot in the past three and a half years and they have hired a strong band of experienced retailers at just below group board level. A leading London head-

Demerger revises Extel bid

By Cliff Feltham

One of the City's most presumptuous takeover bids took on a more serious dimension yesterday when the newly-created Demerger Corporation launched a revised offer for Extel, the news and information group, backed by cash.

Demerger's earlier £170 million all-paper bid received support from under 1 per cent of Extel shareholders at the first closing date.

It still plans to break Extel into separate parts and float them off on the stock market, but now there is an underwritten cash alternative of £4 a share in addition to a straight share swap.

On the stock market Extel shares finished 12p higher at 405p. But the terms were again rejected by the Extel board which it said "grossly undervalued" the company. The new proposals include plans to reshape Extel's news and sports services which Demerger claims are coming under increasing threat from rival sources.

Mr Peter Earl, a director of Demerger and managing director of its merchant bank (Incip, said: "Shareholders in Extel might wonder why their own board has not gone out and arranged the sort of deal we have fixed up."

Mr Earl said that Extel's £4.9 million profits from its sports and news services - representing 45 per cent of total earnings - were coming under attack from the Press Association, its former partners, and from its former clients, the bookmakers themselves.

A key figure in the battle is the publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, head of Mirror Group Newspapers, who sits on an 11.7 per cent stake in Extel. He was yesterday studying the new terms.

Mr Maxwell said last night: "The offer is clearly serious and is being seriously considered by me as no doubt it deserves to be by all other shareholders."

French shatter the peace at finance ministers' retreat

By Richard Owen, Sarah Hogg and Diana Geddes

A small Dutch holiday resort near the West German border, which should have been the venue for a quiet routine meeting of EEC finance ministers this weekend, has suddenly become the centre of crucial negotiations over realignment of the European Monetary System (EMS).

The finance ministers, including Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, are meeting at Ootmarsum, today and tomorrow.

The gathering could be contentious, and Mr Mark Eyskens, the Belgian finance minister, yesterday said he saw no technical reasons for devaluing the Belgian franc in the wake of the Bank of France's decision to suspend official currency quotations yesterday.

Mr Eyskens said the French move had taken him by surprise, and European currencies had appeared stable after the recent French election.

The EEC's senior committee, composed of senior officials from national finance ministries, laid the ground work for the talks yesterday. EMS realignment has political implications for two EEC member states facing elections

Table with 2 columns: Date, Rate. Previous EMS Realignments: September 1979 DKrone -3%, DM: +2%, DKrone -3%, November 1979 Guilder: +4.2%, DKrone -5%, March 1981 Lira: -2.75%, Lira -6%, October 1981 DM: +5.3%, Guilder: +3.3%, Lira: -2.63%, February 1982 DM: +5.5%, BFranc: +1.3%, Lira: -3%, Lira: -3%, Lira: -7.8%

expected to lead to an upvaluation in the mark, and possibly the Dutch guilder, against other European currencies and particularly the French franc. The rate between the mark and the franc is expected to be adjusted by at least 5 per cent, and probably more.

The Bank of France sounded the alert for a realignment when it suspended official currency quotations. This followed a sharp fall in the franc in New York on Thursday night.

Agence France Presse, the semi-official French news agency, quoted "well informed sources" as saying that the realignment within the European Monetary System (EMS) would be accompanied by an "abolition" of French exchange control. However, Le Monde suggested that the controls would simply be "reduced".

The prime minister's office declined comment. The French stock exchange shot up to a record high yesterday in anticipation of the move, marking an increase of nearly 40 per cent since the beginning of the year, while the Bourse de Change in the banks virtually closed down,

STOCK MARKET

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Price/Change. FT 30 Share 1420.9 (-5.0), FT-SE 100 1709.7 (-7.9), USM (Datastream) N/A, THE POUND US Dollar 1.4490 (-0.0110), W German mark 3.4624 (-0.0182), Trade-weighted 76.4 (-0.1)

Share sale at Reuters

United Newspapers has sold its entire holding of 17.46 million shares in Reuters, the news agency, at 440p a share, the newspaper group, which includes the Daily and Sunday Express, said yesterday.

The shares were placed with various institutions. The proceeds were about £76.7 million.

New jobber

Hill Samuel is setting up a wholly owned jobbing company which would start trading on April 28. The new company, called Wood Street Securities, will initially job in investment trusts, insurance stocks, oil majors and leading pharmaceuticals. It will be headed by Mr Chris Cartwright and will be integrated into the stockbroker Wood Mackenzie after big bang in October.

Australian cut

The National Mutual Royal Bank of Australia has cut its prime lending rate from 19 to 18 per cent - the lowest in Australia.

Tokyo rate

The Bank of Japan plan no further cuts to its 4 per cent domestic discount rate, the governor, Mr Satoshi Sumita, said in Tokyo.

Nordin stake

The offer by Mr Ake Nordin to buy Campari International shares not owned by him or his family trust, has lapsed. Acceptances were received for 1.47 per cent, taking his stake to 49.23 per cent.

Share sale

Turner & Newall is rebidding its interest in its South African subsidiary, Turner & Newall Holdings, from 78 per cent to 51 per cent by offering shares to the public. The proceeds will be about £4 million.

Premier move

Premier Consolidated Oil has written to Goal Petroleum proposing that Goal co-opt to its board of directors Mr Roland Shaw, chairman and managing director of Premier.

\$30m issue

Hill Samuel & Co, the merchant bank, is to be lead manager of a financing - through the issue of convertible Eurobonds - of up to \$30 million (£20.5 million) by Cranges Exploration, of Canada, for exploration and development costs of existing properties. The issue terms will be determined this month.

Merger talks

Good Relations, the public relations company, is involved in preliminary talks which may lead to a merger.

Lee success

The application list for 16.66 million shares at 180p each in Lee International closed yesterday oversubscribed.

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns: Instrument, Price/Change

STOCK MARKETS table with columns: Instrument, Price/Change

GOLD table with columns: Instrument, Price/Change

MAIN PRICE CHANGES table with columns: Instrument, Price/Change

CURRENCIES and INTEREST RATES table with columns: Instrument, Price/Change

Oppenheimer advertisement with text 'Our style is worlds apart.' and a bar chart showing performance over 7 years.

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stock prices plunged in busy late afternoon trading on Thursday, largely due to futures-related sell programmes. The Dow Jones industrial average, which was down only about three points at mid-afternoon, closed at 1,766.4, down 28.86.

The total volume was 148,230,000 shares, compared with 145,300,000 on Wednesday. The New York Stock Exchange composite index was 134.1, down 1.67. Average price per share was down 50 cents.

The American Stock Exchange volume totalled 12,605,795 shares, compared with Wednesday's 10,632,300.

Table with columns for date (Apr 3, Apr 2) and various stock indices (AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.)

There were 510 issues advancing, 1,168 declining, and 381 unchanged.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for Market rates, Sterling spot and forward rates, and other sterling rates.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Market rates close April 3. 1 month 3 months.

OTHER STERLING RATES. Argentine austral, Australian dollar, Brazilian cruzeiro, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES. Ireland, Italy, Japan, etc.

THE PRICES AND UNIT TRUST QUOTATIONS ON THIS PAGE REFER TO THURSDAY'S TRADING.

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COMMODITIES

Table with columns for LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, and ALUMINIUM.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE. Sugar, Cocoa, etc.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE. Silver, Gold, etc.

ALUMINIUM. Price in £ per metric tonne.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION. Cattle, Sheep, etc.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES. Cattle, Sheep, etc.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES. Cattle, Sheep, etc.

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LONDON MEAT FUTURES. Cattle, Sheep, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns for High/Low Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS. High/Low Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS. High/Low Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS. High/Low Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS. High/Low Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS. High/Low Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

Handwritten signature: John, in italics.

TEMPUS

Between the devil and the deep North Sea

One by one the oil companies have announced cuts in their exploration budgets. The cuts have become more savage as the oil price has sunk lower and lower. Expenditure on drilling is the most flexible part of the capital budget, and cutting back is the quickest way to make an impact on strained finances.

Much more difficult is deciding what to do about undeveloped oilfields where most of the evaluation and design work has been done and sanction to begin ordering hardware was expected during the next 12 months. What matters for these fields is what the oil price is going to be when they start producing from 1990 onward.

It will be impossible to make sensible business judgments about future developments until the oil market shows signs of settling, preferably above \$18 per barrel. Even at this level the banks will be unwilling to give non-recourse project finance to some projects and this will make it difficult for the financially weaker companies to borrow money for their share of development.

There is no evidence that where orders have already been initiated, such as Shell's Tern and Eider fields, development will be halted. However, there must be a great deal of hard thinking going on about how to proceed with new developments such as T-block and Miller.

T-block was always a marginal project, but with oil at \$25 it looked attractive enough to Agip and Century Power & Light to pay Phillips \$182 million for its 35 per cent share. Agip has now been confirmed as operator in place of Phillips and the consortium, which also includes Petrofina and Lasmio, is faced with some difficult decisions.

More appraisal drilling needs to be done on T-block. As well as trying to establish additional reserves, much effort will go into finding ways of cutting the capital cost of the development. Until detailed engineering studies are completed to quantify the scope for reducing costs, it is impossible to work out the returns.

But it is clear that to have any chance at all of going

ahead T-block needs an oil price of at least \$18, and it may not be viable at that. Originally, it had been hoped to submit the Annex B in the first quarter of 1987. Slippage is now inevitable.

The Miller oil field is somewhat more robust. This project is resilient at \$15-\$18 per barrel, but only if it is a no-frills development. Every avenue is being explored to reduce capital costs, not just on the existing design but also looking at other methods of going ahead.

Alternatives include the possibility of siting the sour gas facilities onshore rather than on the platform, and using the Harton method of construction, where the platform was loaded up in harbour and floated out virtually complete. BP has won the operatorship of Miller from Conoco. The other partners are Enterprise and Santa Fe.

For any project to be approved, all the partners in the consortium must believe in it. As no one is making any bets on how long the oil price is going to remain low, it is unlikely that we will see much money being spent on new capital projects in the North Sea until the oil price outlook becomes much clearer.

Britannia Arrow

Britannia Arrow has produced annual results which, if nothing else, should reassure shareholders that the successful defence against Guinness Peat was not wasted effort. Whatever a marriage with GP would have produced, it is clear that Britannia is capable of continuing strong growth on its own.

The cost of the bid defence came out at £2.4 million, or 4.5p a share. On the other hand, the bid helped to push Britannia's shares from a modest 90p a few months ago to nearly 150p yesterday.

Britannia has met its forecast, made at the time of the bid, of a 4.2p full-year dividend, up by 68 per cent from the previous year's 2.5p. Pre-tax profits were up 40 per cent - from £14 million to £19.7 million - with satisfactory growth in most areas of its business. Britannia denies any plans to sell off Singer

& Friedlander, its merchant banking arm.

There are, of course, still questions overhanging Britannia. Mr Robert Maxwell holds a substantial stake. Presumably he will retain it, at least while he is involved with Mr David Stevens in other Stock Exchange operations. Mr Stevens is to join as a main board director when Montagu Investment Management is merged with Britannia.

COMPANY NEWS

THE GRA GROUP: Results for year to October 31 (£300). Pre-tax profit 643 (£77), tax 245 (£11 ed), extraordinary credit 350 (£57). Earnings per share before extraordinary items 0.92p (0.91), after 1.74p (2.44). The profit was achieved although the White City was closed for the whole of the trading period, whereas it operated for most of the corresponding period.

MOUNT CHARLOTTE INVESTMENTS: The chairman, Mr S C Smith-Cox, says in his annual statement that the company's profitability in 1986 so far has exceeded budget targets. He confidently expects further progress in profits and net earnings per share this year.

TI GROUP: The chairman, Mr T. Unger, says in his annual report that, after the progress in 1985, this year is viewed with a great deal more confidence. Demand for company's products remains generally good.

CULLEN'S HOLDINGS: Acceptances have been received for 99.63 per cent of the 2,649,558 new ordinary shares offered at 200p. Shares not taken up have been sold at a net premium of about 74p over the subscription price.

GRUFUND INTERNATIONAL: Results for year to February 26. No final, making 1.3c (1.8). Figures in \$000. Net revenue 649 (945) after transfer to capital redemption reserve all (40). Net revenue per share 1.3197c (1.8213).

NOBLE AND LUND: Final 0.35p, making 0.7p (0.1925). Figures for 1985 in £000. Pre-tax profit 278 (59). Earnings per share 3.85p (1.02). Board is pursuing policy of expanding through acquisition. Existing business has been transferred to a new subsidiary, Noble and Lund Engineering, and Noble and Lund will be the holding company. Group has completed the acquisition of Aquadrum, a small advanced technology company manufacturing spark erosion machinery.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE BREWERIES: Company has launched its first Euro-sterling £50 million issue, led by Hill Samuel and Morgan Grenfell. The issue has a maturity of 20 years, a coupon of 9% per cent and an issue price of £100% per cent. The proceeds will be used to improve the main structure of the company.

WEST'S GROUP INTERNATIONAL: The Tilbury offers have been declared unconditional.

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES: Acceptances of Coleroll's offers have been received for 15,241 shares (0.27 per cent of the issued ordinary), and 321 pref shares (0.02 per cent). Before the announcement of the offers Coleroll owned 497,000 shares (8.7 per cent). The offers and the cash alternative have been extended until 3pm on April 17.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bid fever keeps its grip

A record 46,000 bargains were struck on the London Stock Exchange yesterday with turnover valued at £765.48 million.

After a bearish start the FT 30 index recovered to close down five points at 1,420.9. The FT-SE 100 index was 7.9 off at 1,709.7.

Bid mania showed little sign of easing as the market ended an eventful week. It was another session in which takeover situations dominated, as the spotlight switched to the banking sector where Lloyds launched a bid worth £1.2 billion for Standard Chartered, whose shares rose 18 1/2 to 820p after the approach. Lloyds finished 7p down at 632p among other firm clearers.

Earlier, there had been the offer by Hillsdown, up 35p at 313p, for S & W Berisford, 18p better at 248p, new Demerger terms for Exter, 12p higher at 405p, news of merger talks at Good Relations, which gained 16p to 169p, and a bid approach for Standard Fire

works, which improved 19p to 140p after 160p.

Elsewhere, after some profit-taking, share prices strengthened as the market closed. Among the leaders revived bid gossip lifted Beecham 20p to 388p, while Distillers jumped 35p to 710p after comment on the latest developments.

There was still plenty of activity in stores where counterbid hopes put another 15p on Woolworth at 905p. Dixons, meanwhile, shed 18p at 412p. Burton also reflected profit-taking after yesterday's good figures, closing 13p lower at 340p.

Speculative buying lifted Avon 11 1/2p to 73 1/2p, while

Vickers still reflected compensation hopes, advancing 12p to 540p. There was no holding Amstrad, which responded to fresh investment buying by climbing another 50p to 490p.

Among foods Avana, after yesterday's broker's lunch, rose 13p to 492p. Another firm spot was in brewers where Vaux remained excited by talk of a Pleasurama bid, jumping 50p to 535p.

Recent Oppenheimer profits stimulated Mercantile House, 15p higher at 342p, while Mercury Securities, on Steinberg stake speculation, put on 25p at 953p. Royal Bank of Scotland climbed 28p at 380p on speculation that it would sell its Woolworth stake.

There was profit-taking in Reckitt and Colman, 18p easier at 852p, but Tate & Lyle gained 13p at 658p, reflecting its stake in Berisford.

Reuters, after the sale of the United News stake, closed 10p down at 455p. Bowater, with results due soon, also lost 10p, closing at 328p.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		RIGHTS ISSUES	
Abbott M V (180p)	230	SAC Mill (100p)	139
Ashley (L) (135p)	217 -4	SPP (125p)	155 -1
BPP (160p)	186	Templeton (215p)	223 -5
Brookmount (180p)	183	Sigmax (101p)	81
Chart FL (88p)	93	Snowdon & B (97p)	119
Chancery Secs (53p)	77	Spica (80p)	96
Com 9% A 2000	228 1/2	Tech Corp (130p)	202
Cranswick (155p)	106	Underwoods (180p)	185 +2
Diatens (128p)	180 -5	Wellcome (120p)	219 -7
Ferguson (J) (10p)	31 1/2	W York Hosp (90p)	78
Gold Gem Trst (165p)	195 +7	Wickes (140p)	172
Granyte Surface (58p)	80	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Inoco (55p)	38	Cullens F/P	275 +205
JS Panology (160p)	280	Greycost N/P	52 +2
Jarvis Porter (105p)	136 +3	Hartwells N/P	2
Kearford (118p)	118 +5	NMW Comp F/P	£350
Laxicon (115p)	118 +5	Porter chad F/P	£48 - 1/2
Macro 4 (105p)	136 -2	Safeway UK	104
Mervale M (115p)	148 +1	Wates F/P	155
Norant Sys (90p)	108 +3	Westland F/P	83
Really Useful (330p)	328 -5	(issue price in brackets).	

Weather hits foods group

Bad weather last summer and autumn sharply reduced profits at E T Sutherland and Son, the Sheffield-based foods group, according to results announced yesterday.

Although sales of chilled foods were higher in the second half of 1985 than in 1984, they fell short of the budgeted figure in what is normally the busiest time of the year.

Sutherland reported operating profits of £840,000 in the year, down from £1.51 million in 1984, despite a rise in turnover to £23.64 million from £20.74 million.

The dividend is maintained at a total 3.33p after a final 1.87p, payable on May 30. Members of the chairman's family have waived their rights to the final dividend.

The company says difficult conditions remain difficult and this year has started slowly.

Overheads in the chilled foods division continued to grow and were built up to match a turnover level that was not reached. Operating profits, therefore, were significantly lower than planned.

Since the end of the year steps taken to cut costs include

closing the special products factory and transferring production of cooked meats to the main factory.

The canned foods division is still facing competition from imports of subsidized canned meat products, mainly from Brazil and Holland. Although this is expected to be temporary, it has been decided not to trade in unprofitable lines.

Pending a return to a more acceptable level of profitability, Sutherland will be reducing capital expenditure substantially.

Beatle era collection is saved

By Teresa Poole

The Beatle City collection of memorabilia has been saved from the auction rooms of New York, and will remain in Liverpool.

Transworld Leisure, the London developer, has acquired the loss-making exhibition for £500,000 from Radio City, the Merseyside independent radio station.

The new home for more than 1,000 exhibits from the Beatle era will be Liverpool's Festival Gardens, which are being developed by Transworld at a cost of £8 million under an agreement with the Merseyside Development Corporation.

Without the Transworld deal, Liverpool would have lost the collection. Two other potential buyers were intending to move the exhibition to London and, failing an agreement, Radio City was planning to ship the collection this month to Sotheby's in New York.

Since its opening in April, 1984 at a cost of £1.4 million, Beatle City has lost money.

APPOINTMENTS

British Land: Mr Gerald Rothman is appointed a director.

Currency Brokers International: Mr Spencer Freeman-Haynes and Mr Graham Mansfield have joined the board.

Nolton: Mr Richard Opperman has become an executive director.

Tim Arnold: Mr Eric Watt steps up to director from account director, and Mr Mark Beasley, a director of Masterguide, takes up a similar appointment with Tim Arnold.

Fosco Minsep: Mr Robert Jordan becomes group managing director in succession to Mr Tony Chubb who is appointed deputy chairman. Dr Doug Bryant and Mr Ian Hazlehurst join the board.

Mallinson-Denny Ltd: Mr Roger Bartlett has been appointed finance director.

The British & Commonwealth Shipping Company: Mr David Kinloch joins the board as an executive director.

Superdrug Stores: Mr Alan G Chandler has been made a director.

Baird Eves: Mr C H Sporborg has become chairman and Mr J M Clay and Mr D G Lewis have been made directors.

The British Association of Industrial Editors: Mr Cecil Pedersen has been appointed chief executive following the retirement of secretary general Ken Bartlett.

The Howard Group: Mr Keyio Dower has been appointed managing director of Anthooy Popple and Company Limited, the Lloyds broker specializing in US casualty business.

A close encounter of the real kind

On the night of March 13th 1985 the GIOTTO spacecraft reached the climax of its incredible journey. An encounter with Halley's Comet.

Over 91 million miles out in space GIOTTO is unlocking some of the secrets that have held the imagination of man for centuries. To make that rendezvous, a British Aerospace team had spent the previous three years building GIOTTO with the help of companies from 10 countries.

Since 1964 we've acted as prime contractor on 21 European spacecraft, including the Olympus class, the most powerful communications satellites yet ordered.

These spacecraft, together with guided weapons systems, civil and military aircraft, form part of a range of aerospace products unmatched by any other company in the world.

Giving British Aerospace the skills and experience to meet the demands of tomorrow.

With 76 years to wait until the return of Halley's Comet, its encounter was a milestone we could not afford to miss. Who knows who will be there to meet it next time round?

BRITISH AEROSPACE
...up where we belong

British Aerospace plc, 100 Pall Mall, London.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year gain or loss. Lists various companies and their performance metrics.

Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.

Table with columns: Day (MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT), Total. Shows daily dividend totals.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists various British funds.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists short positions.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists medium-term investments.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists long-term investments.

UNDATED

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists undated investments.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists index-linked investments.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists bank discount investments.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists electrical companies.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities recover

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 1. Dealings end April 11. Settlement day April 14. Settlement day, April 21. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the ELECTRICALS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the BREWERIES sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the BUILDING AND ROADS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the CHEMICALS, PLASTICS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the CINEMAS AND TV sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the DRAPERY AND STORES sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the ELECTRICALS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the FINANCE AND LAND sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the FOODS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the HOTELS AND CATERERS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the INDUSTRIALS A-D sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the INDUSTRIALS A-D sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the INDUSTRIALS A-D sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the E-K sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the E-K sector.

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Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the INSURANCE sector.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000. WEEKLY DIVIDEND £20,000. Claims required for +39 points. Claims required for +166 points. Claimants should ring 0254-5372.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the OVERSEAS TRADERS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the OVERSEAS TRADERS sector.

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Lists companies in the OVERSEAS TRADERS sector.

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Handwritten note: April 1986

Cheaper way to invest money

SHARES

It is difficult to see why investors with sums of less than, say, £50,000 bother with direct investment in shares — unit trusts are a more tax-efficient and cheaper way of building a portfolio of shares.

Stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers came to the same conclusion — but realised that many people still like to have a dabble in shares or want to tag a new issue.

Their solution offers the best of both worlds: the Master Portfolio Service is a unit trust with a minimum investment of £50,000 and a dealing service tacked on as an extra.

Costs are kept to a minimum with a front end charge of only 1.5 per cent compared with the normal 5 per cent charged by most unit trusts. The annual management charge is 1 per cent.

Investors get the benefit of professional management for their core holdings of shares — the blue chips and others that you are not going to want to sell. In addition you can still deal directly in shares in the normal way but brokers' time is no longer taken up with discussing your portfolio.

Around £1 million of new money a week has been coming in since launch date and the fund now stands at £16 million.

The cost of preparing capital gains tax computations necessary when buying and selling shares, not to mention a high minimum bargain charge now levied by most stockbrokers, makes the Capel Cure Myers service an attractive alternative.

Full details from Capel Cure Myers, 65, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EU, tel: 01-236 5080.

City fever as boom continues

STOCK MARKETS

Stock markets hit new highs again this week as investors indulged in a spate of bed and breakfasting keeping stockbrokers working until the small hours of the morning and severely straining the Stock Exchange computers.

"I shall be here probably until midnight," groaned Anthony Wilkin of Springour Vickers. "We have to get the paper work done."

"The volume of bargains is hitting record levels too," confirmed Paul Killick of Quilter Goodison. "On Thursday, for example, the number of transactions was 37,900 compared with 26,900 a year ago."

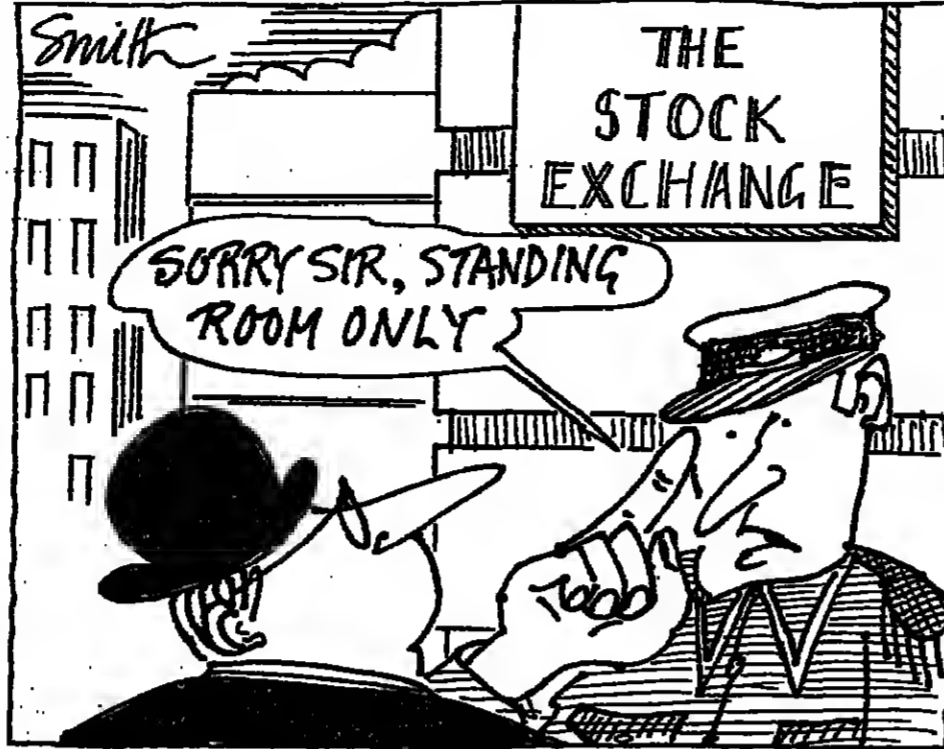
And shareholders and unit trust investors have some handsome profits to take. The FT all share index is up over 30 per cent on a year ago as is "Footsie," the new Stock Exchange index, while the FT Ordinary index is up by nearly 50 per cent on the 12-month period.

If stockbrokers have been busy the accountants barely have time to answer the phone. "Everyone wants to know what their capital gains tax position is and how much profit to take. I'm going to chuck this job in and become a stockbroker," complained an overworked accountant's clerk.

For unit trust investors, the latest performance figures show the Japanese trusts dominating the top end of the three-month charts with no less than 12 of the top 20 invested in Japan and the Far East.

But if both the performance of the yen and Japanese stocks are pushing the Japanese trusts through the roof, trusts invested in neighbouring Hong Kong and Malaysia take the booby prizes at the bottom end of the charts, along with the Pacific, Australasian and commodity funds.

These funds have seen



losses of as much as 30 per cent since the beginning of the year with a £100 investment in Target Australia now worth only £70.20.

For new investors coming into the market, it is reasonable to expect the boom in share prices to continue. "We are quite relaxed about the situation," says Fred Carr of stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers. "The turning point in the economic cycle seems to be

pushed further and further into the future."

He believes that the fall in the price of oil has fundamentally changed the entire world economy and that markets worldwide are being rerated.

But he is predicting that the price of oil will rebound to about \$18 a barrel by the end of the year which does indicate that a modicum of caution would not come amiss. "I think like the Duke of Wel-

ington at the ball before the battle of Waterloo — you stay at the party but you keep your boots near the door."

Investment adviser Peter Edwards of Premier Unit Trust Brokers is quite bappy with the situation. "We are remaining fully invested with one third in each of the US and the UK with 20 per cent in Japan. We have taken no liquidity," he says.

He confirms that since early January when it became obvious that the oil price was set to fall, his clients have been fully invested and have remained so.

But are share prices fully discounting the effects of the fall in oil prices? "No — because I don't think anyone knows yet at what price oil will settle," he says. "It is perfectly possible that it will drift even lower."

He is recommending TR Smaller Companies in the UK, both the M & G American funds and Target American in the US as well as Baring

Why you should meet outside the office

ALLOWANCES

As a result of a recent court ruling it now pays partnerships and small businesses to hold weekend or overnight conferences — rather than working lunches.

The case of Watkins v Ashford Sparkes and Harward concerned a firm of solicitors. The partners were self-employed and therefore as Schedule D taxpayers one of the facts they had to prove to the court was that the expenses they claimed as deductions were "wholly and exclusively laid out or expended for the purpose of the trade, profession or vocation."

The solicitors sought to offset the cost of various lunch meetings at which the partners discussed business and their evening business meetings followed by dinner. The court held that the food and drink was not a deductible expense because it did not satisfy the "wholly and exclusively" criteria — it took the place of meals which would have been consumed in any event.

But the partners also went on an annual weekend conference — with their wives and children. They stayed in a hotel because the purpose of the meeting was to discuss particularly important issues affecting the business and "continuity of these discussions was of considerable importance and value".

The court accepted that the cost of overnight accommodation for the partners was "wholly and exclusively" incurred for business purposes and was therefore deductible.

They went a step further and confirmed that if the hotel bill is reasonable, the amount will usually be allowed in full without being broken down into accommodation on the one hand and food and drink on the other.

Patrick Way, a tax partner at Nabarro Nathanson, said: "What the Revenue is looking to see is the main purpose of the taxpayer when incurring the expense."

"In the case of food and drink it is very hard to say that the main reason for incurring the expense is a business one; obviously the individual would have eaten anyway. However, if the taxpayer goes away to a conference, the cost of the hotel accommodation is over and above that which he would have ordinarily incurred."

"In these circumstances, where food and drink is consumed as well, provided that the bill is reasonable, the Revenue does allow all the costs. The motto therefore may well be for Schedule E taxpayers to have their important firm business meetings away from the office."

Furthermore, if you are self-employed you should be able to deduct the cost of travelling to the conference, provided you travel to the meeting from your place of work and not from home.

"Everyone is conferencing," said Gill Smillie, a partner in the Dorking-based conference organizers Conference Venues Countrywide. "There has been an unprecedented boom in conference business."

The reason for the increased popularity of overnight conferences could well be as a result of a court case. Gill Smillie said firms are increasingly requesting hotels with leisure facilities for their conferences.

Lord Denning said in the Watkins case: "If the purpose is exclusively business and any personal benefit or enjoyment is incidental, then the conference expenditure can be deducted."

At the top end of the market, luxury country house hotels such as Ettington Park, near Stratford, charge £90 a delegate a day. This includes VAT, all meals, conference room hire and the use of leisure facilities such as indoor swimming pool.

Another recent trend Gill Smillie has noticed is that fewer delegates are accompanied by their wives.

Sue Fieldman

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Current value of £100 invested over three months to April 1, 1986

Fund	Value
County Bank Japan Growth	147.80
Lagel & General	147.30
Britannia Japan Performance	146.50
Target Japan	145.90
OS Japan	141.20
Oppenheimer Japan Growth	140.60
Wardley Japan	139.70
FS Balanced Growth	138.80
Wardley International Growth	138.80
Sentinel UK General	138.80

Return calculated on an offer-to-offer basis, net income reinvested

Source: Planned Savings

Marriage allowance hitch

A little-noticed consequence of the proposed switch to transferable income tax allowances, as proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Green Paper on personal tax reform, published on Budget day, is the adverse effect this could have on single parents.

At present, single parents with dependent children receive the single allowance plus an additional personal allowance of £1,320 in 1986/87. This increases the tax allowances available for single parents to the equivalent of the married man's allowance.

The Green Paper, like its 1980 predecessor, proposes getting rid of the additional

personal allowance and replacing it with extra social security benefits. This approach, it is said, would have the advantage of removing support for single parents from the tax system and concentrating it on the benefits system, give help to those single parents who do not pay tax, and reduce the tax penalty on marriage.

The latter point refers to cases of men and women with children from previous marriages who decide to live together. Under the present system, they each get the equivalent of the married man's allowance, unless they marry.

There are difficulties with the proposed system of transferable allowances as it would affect single parents.

The first is that many working single parents are proud to be independent of the social security system. The new system would force them into claiming benefits.

Second, the new system would allow a man to leave his wife and marry again, at which point he would have two single allowances to set against income. His first wife, meanwhile, has one allowance to set against her income, irrespective of the number of children.

David Smith

Economics Correspondent

FRAMLINGTON

EUROPEAN FUND

All-Out Capital Growth, with a Touch of French Flair

Framlington European Fund aims for maximum capital growth through investment in shares quoted on the principal European stock markets.

Europe is now one of the most popular areas for investment. But it is a diverse and complex market: for investment success strong links with the continent are highly desirable. Framlington's are with Crédit Commercial de France, enabling us to combine CCF's expertise and knowledge of the European market with our own eminently effective approach to long term capital growth.

THE FRAMLINGTON APPROACH

Our special style is to concentrate on smaller companies and try to identify those with really good growth prospects before the rest of the market recognises their promise, aiming for exceptional capital growth performance.

The results of this have been good, especially over the long term.

OUR RECORD

The two previous Framlington funds which have most closely followed this approach have been Capital Trust, investing in UK, shares; and American and General Fund, investing in the U.S.A. Both have done well.

Over the ten years to 1st March Framlington Capital Trust was the very best performing of all the 273 unit trusts monitored by Money Management over the period. It turned an original investment of £1,000 into £11,415.

And over seven years, our American & General Fund (started 1978) was one of the two best performing unit trusts out of the 27 investing in North American shares. It turned £1,000 into £4,544.

OUR EUROPEAN LINK

The manager of the fund is Philippe Héroult, who has been seconded from Crédit Commercial de France. He is our link into CCF's research, while working in London with the other Framlington fund managers.

The fund will have a bias towards smaller companies: it is, for example, authorised to invest in the French *Second Marché*.

In geographical terms the current emphasis of investment is on France (37 per cent), Italy

(11 per cent), Switzerland (13 per cent) and Germany (11 per cent), with smaller holdings in Belgium, Sweden, Spain, Holland and Norway. There is currently a substantial flow of new money into the fund. As this is invested, the proportions will change. In particular, the proportion invested in Germany is likely to be increased. The fund has powers to invest in Britain but will not do so for the present.

LUMP SUM INVESTMENT

You can make a lump sum investment simply by completing the form below and sending it to us with your cheque. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. The minimum investment for a lump sum is £500. There is a discount of 1 per cent for investments of £10,000 or more.

MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN

Starting a monthly savings plan is equally easy. The minimum is £20 per month, with a discount of 1 per cent for contributions of £100 or more. Accumulation units are used and are allocated at the price ruling on the 5th of each month. To start your plan, complete the application and send it with your cheque for the first contribution. Subsequent contributions are by the direct debit mandate which we shall send to you for your signature.

Investors should regard all unit trust investments as long term. They are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

On 1 April the price of both income and accumulation units was 53.8p, compared with 50.0p when the fund was launched on February 14. The estimated gross yield was 0.95 per cent.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applications will be acknowledged; certificates for lump-sum investments will be sent by the registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, normally within 42 days. The minimum initial investment is £500. Units may be bought and sold daily. Prices and yields will be published daily in leading newspapers. When units are sold back to the managers payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of the renounced certificate. Savings plans can be cashed in at any time.

Income net of basic rate tax is distributed to holders of income units annually on 15 July. The first distribution will be on 15 July, 1987.

The annual charge is 1% (+VAT) of the value of the fund. The initial charge, which is included in the offer price, is 5%.

Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries at the rate of 1% (+VAT). Commission is not paid on savings plans.

The trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. It ranks as a wider range security under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. The managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone 01-628 5181. Telex 8812599. Registered in England No 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

TO: FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 5NQ

LUMP SUM

I wish to invest £ in Framlington European Fund (minimum £500)

I enclose my cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited. I am over 18. For accumulation units in which income is reinvested, tick here

Surname (Mr./Mrs./Miss/Title)

Full first name(s)

Address

Signature

(Joint applicants should all sign and if necessary give details separately)

MONTHLY SAVINGS

I wish to start a Monthly Savings Plan for £ in Framlington European Fund (minimum £20)

I enclose my cheque for £ for my first contribution (this can be for a larger amount than your monthly payment). I am over 18.

Date

E

FRAMLINGTON EUROPEAN FUND

Pacific Assets Trust

Number One

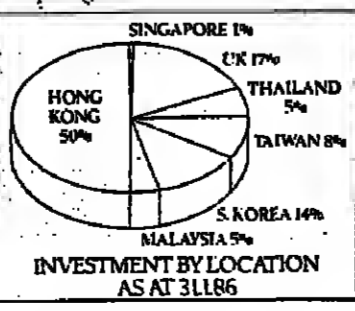


Charlotte Square

Objective: The only UK investment trust which has an objective of investing in selected companies in the Asian Pacific region, excluding Japan and Australia, for capital growth.

Extracts from Chairman's Statement: "During the first year of the company's life stock markets throughout the region have been declining in Sterling terms thus providing an opportunity to invest at reasonable values. Over the longer term, with a solid portfolio of quality investments, the future looks promising."

Performance over year: Stock markets (weighted, in Sterling) -22%, Net Asset Value -8.5%, Dividend per share (net) 0.70p



IVORY & SIME

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT WORLDWIDE
ONE CHARLOTTE SQUARE, EDINBURGH EH2 4DZ. TELEPHONE 031-225 057

To: Ivory & Sime plc, One Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DZ. Please send me a copy of the first Annual Report of Pacific Assets Trust.

Name Address

This advertisement is published by N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited and J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited on behalf of Hanson Trust PLC. The Directors of Hanson Trust PLC are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts. The Directors of Hanson Trust PLC accept responsibility accordingly.

The United Biscuits offer: What will be in it for the Imperial shareholder?



When you examine it closely, the United Biscuits argument soon starts to crumble.

They have no experience of tobacco and brewing.

No record of acquiring or managing diversified businesses.

And little chance of creating "global brands" (Even together, "United Imperial" would be dwarfed by the international food giants.)

Now look at Hanson Trust's argument.

Our shareholders have seen their dividends grow by 28.7% p.a. over the last 5 years.

Our earnings per share have grown by 33.9% p.a. over the last 5 years. And our record of growth in profits has been unbroken for 22 years.

United Biscuits' so-called commercial logic? Or Hanson Trust's actual financial logic?

We recommend you accept the Hanson Trust bid before the next closing date on April 11.



H A N S O N T R U S T

شركة هانسون

FAMILY MONEY/2

Small fortune at end of tunnel

SAVINGS

What a difference 10 years can make. This was when a bank manager with a wife and two children to support could find he had little change from a salary of just over £8,000 a year. It was 1976 and the Labour Chancellor, Denis Healey, was expected to tax cheap bank mortgages as a fringe benefit.

Bank managers up and down the country were getting ready to trade in their desirable detached residences for something more modest.

It did not happen, but it was about this time that a very typical bank manager working for one of the high street banks and living in the home counties started keeping detailed records of his family's budget.

In 1976 he earned £8,041 a year, with taxable benefits of £520 a year for his bank car and private medical insurance. He took home £442 a month. He lived in a five-bedroom detached house and his low 2.5 per cent mortgage cost him only £106 a month. Even so, at the end of the month he had just £18 to buy the family's clothes, shoes and presents, and nothing left for saving.

Today his salary has risen to £24,240 a year with taxable fringe benefits of £480 for his car and £240 for his private medical insurance. His take-home pay is £1,399 a month.

He earns another £125 a month from shares, building-society accounts and his annual bonus. He lives in the same house and his mortgage repayments of £106 a month have paled into insignificance. Now he has a surplus of £532 at the end of the month.

He said: "Ten years ago we were scrapping and saving. Now we hardly know what to do with our money. We could buy a larger house. But with the children grown up and working and soon to move away, we ought to be thinking of buying something smaller."

"Nor do we spend much more on food. Ten years ago our monthly food bills came to £108. They more than doubled over the next five years and by 1981 we were spending £232 a month. Now our supermarket bills come to £256, but the children chip in



£108 a month." "Our major expense and luxury is holidays. Mooney used to be so tight that I put an amount every month into a special holiday fund. If I hadn't, we would never have taken a holiday. In 1976 I used to put aside £30 a month - £360 a year. Now that I feel so much better off I don't budget for holidays any more.

"Even so, last year we spent nearly five times as much on holidays as we did 10 years ago.

"I spent a week bird-watching in Spain, which cost £500. My wife and I spent a week in Scotland - that cost £400. Then my wife went visiting friends in the United States for a couple of weeks. I gave her £500 towards the trip. And she went for a week to Norway with her choir, which cost £300.

"Now I'm off again - this time for a week bird-watching in Israel. It is my most expensive trip - it's going to knock me back more than £500.

"Bird-watching is my passion. I used to be what the bird-watching fraternity call a 'twit' - someone who rushes off to the far corners of the country at the first sighting of a lesser spotted something. Twit'ers spend a fortune on petrol driving around the country.

THE BANK MANAGER'S BUDGET

	1976	1981	1985
	£	£	£
Mortgage	106	106	106
Food	108	232	256
Holiday fund	30	80	-
TV rental	8	-	38
Life insurance	43	40	87
Pocket money	17	19	45
Fares	33	55	79
Rates	19	10	38
Telephone	22	31	89
Gas	8	18	32
Electricity	3	3	12
Water rates	3	3	12
School lunches	5	-	-
TV licence, housing insurance and servicing	8	20	28
Newspapers	4	8	12
Petrol	16	29	28
Clothes, repairs	18	215*	48
Surplus	-	-	523
Net salary	442	884	1399
Gross salary	8041	15474	24240

*I also keep a detailed record of all bills over £100. Last year there were not many big items. We bought a new shower unit for £185 and there was a bill for £120 for repairing and servicing my 800's car."

There are not many of us who have the advantage of a 2.5 per cent mortgage rate. And it is not much consolation to know that 10 years ago our bank manager was close to knocking on his bank manager's door.

But his carefully kept records do show how much the seemingly endless financial squeeze of bringing up children can suddenly ease.

Anthea Masey

Running for money has proved increasingly popular as a means of raising funds for a variety of good causes. There will be a number of sponsored runners in the 26 mile London marathon on April 20.

A run for their money

women's movement dating back to 1870. They hope to raise £5,000 with £500 overheads for printing and mailing.

Their runners include peace campaigner Madge Sharples from Winchester, aged 69, who has run 31 marathons since her first in 1981. She is

the issue of votes for women publicly.

For complete lists of runners and sponsorship forms please contact the organizer Dr Angela Richardson (telephone 01-993 2361) or write to her c/o Fawcett Library, City of London Polytechnic, Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT (01-283 1030 x570).

Jennie Hawthorne

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Latest prices:

Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of each of the offers for your company. In order to be perfectly fair, the values we've quoted are based on the best possible offers. The next closing date of our offer is April 11 at 5 pm.

HANSON BID WORTH:

378.5 P.

UNITED BISCUITS BID WORTH:

361.1 P.

HANSON BID BETTER BY:

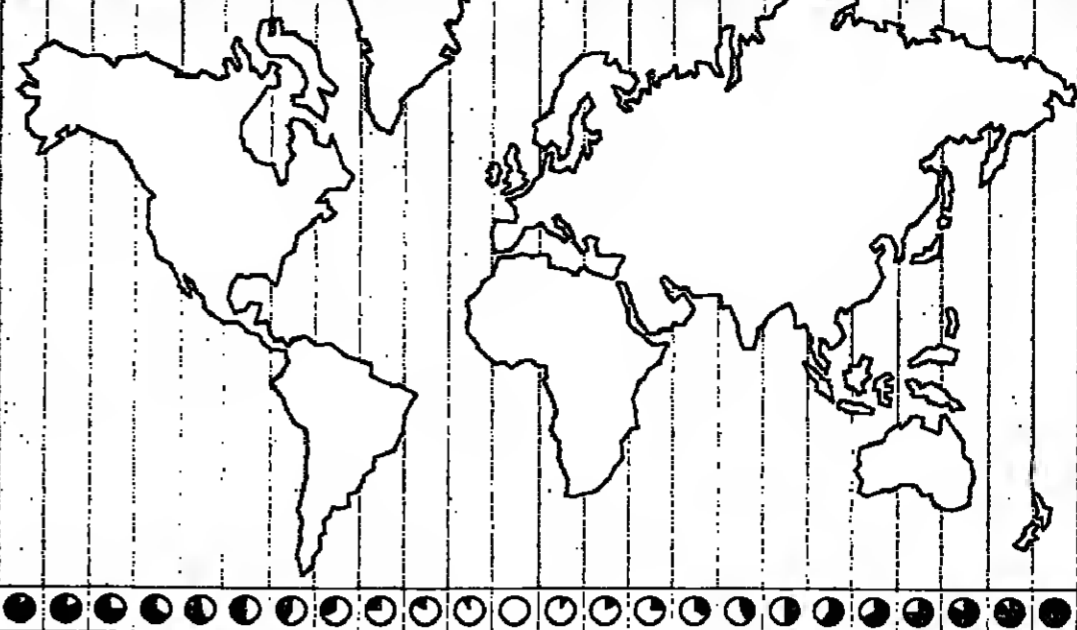
+ 17.4 P.

Figures based on the market prices at 5.30pm on Friday.

HANSON TRUST
CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

The values of Hanson Trust's and United Biscuits' offers depend on their respective share prices. The above offer values are for Hanson Trust's Share and Convertible Stock. Details of the values of United Biscuits' Offer. The offer values take account of estimates by House-Govett Ltd. of the value of the relevant ordinary share prices, of the 10% convertible loan stock of Hanson and the convertible preferred shares of United Biscuits.

WORLD MARKETS ARE STILL MOVING FAST



YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITH AN INVESTMENT THAT WORKS 24 HOURS A DAY

Investing in the world's stockmarkets is undoubtedly one of the best ways of making your savings grow. Over the last five years the UK stockmarket has risen 162%, America 162% and Germany 315%. Compare this with a Building Society share account return of just 4.7% over the same period.

The problem for most people, whether they are first-time investors or not, is that choosing the most promising stocks demands a high degree of specialist knowledge and a great deal of time.

Fidelity Managed International Trust offers you a way round this problem. The Trust aims to provide maximum capital growth through an actively managed portfolio of stocks selected from the world's stockmarkets.

ACTIVE MANAGEMENT, CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE

Of course, to manage an international fund successfully requires considerable skills. The Trust draws upon Fidelity's strengths as one of the largest investment management groups in the world, with investment offices in all the world's major financial centres. We are therefore in a position to know which stockmarkets offer the most potential - and to make sure your money is there, working for you.

ANNUALISED RETURN OF OVER 34%

The performance of Managed International Trust highlights

the success of our investment philosophy. Over the past one and two years, the Trust is ranked 4th and 2nd in its sector (Source: Plannet Savings, March 1986). And since launch in October 1982, the Trust has produced an annualised return of over 34%.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT - INVEST NOW

The minimum investment for Managed International Trust is only £500.

To give your investment a head start, Fidelity is currently offering a special 1% discount on all investments in Managed International Trust - but you must apply now to qualify. So return your completed coupon today - it's out only 11th April 1986.

Alternatively, phone Fidelity's investment advisers on Call-free 0800 414161, between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays or between 9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

You should bear in mind that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. In writing terms.



FIDELITY MANAGED INTERNATIONAL TRUST

GENERAL INFORMATION: A prospectus for your application together with a brochure will be sent immediately. For conditions will be sent within 10 days. The current annualised gross yield is 3.25% as at the offer price of 100p of the Fidelity Managed International Trust at 2nd April 1986. The distribution date is 15th April 1986. 2nd March.

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED
191 BROADWAY, FINCHLEY, N4 1JF
TELEPHONE: 0800 414161

Signature: _____
Name: MR/MRS/MISS _____
First name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Prices are quoted daily in the Financial Times, 11 and 12, and Personal Finance, 11 and 12. The Trust is a member of the Investment Association. Registered Office: 191 Broadway, Finchley, N4 1JF. The Trust is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fidelity International Management Limited. Offices are open in the Republic of Ireland.

Investment £ _____
Pounds _____

Fidelity International



Only the best unit trust managers produce funds that are consistently successful. That's why "What Investment's" comprehensive five year performance study makes Gartmore "Fund Management Group of the Year."

We have investment specialists managing 21 unit trusts covering all the world's major markets from investment offices in London, Glasgow, Hong Kong, Tokyo, San Francisco and Sydney. And with more than £2.2 billion investor's money under group management, that means success in anyone's language.

Some of Gartmore's top performing funds	*Total return on £1000 after 5 years	Total return on £1000 after 5 years
Gartmore Income Fund	£3461	Building Society £1609 Income assumed at 7% over the actual Building Society ordinary share rate.
Gartmore Japan Trust	£3300	
Gartmore British Trust	£2665	
Gartmore Global Fund	£2328	

*Offer to bid, net income reinvested, 1/81 to 1/1/86. Source: Money Management Magazine

For more information on Gartmore's top performing unit trusts, telephone 01-623 1212 or send this coupon to Gartmore Fund Managers Limited, 2 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Gartmore
The Fund Managers

THE GUINNESS BID FOR DISTILLERS. HERE ARE THE ARGUMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE.

1. The Guinness best and final offer is worth 770p per Distillers share. The Argyll best and final offer is worth 732p per Distillers share. The Guinness offer is better by 38p.

2. The Guinness offer is unanimously recommended by the Board of Distillers. The Argyll offer is unanimously rejected by the Board of Distillers.

3. Guinness and Distillers will form an enterprise of world-scale, in terms of both its size and its activities. It will be one of the 15 largest companies in Britain and one of the top 70 in the world. With a market value of over £3 billion it will be worth more than 1% of all the U.K. companies quoted on the stock market.

4. The current Guinness management team has a proven track record in turning around a drinks business and establishing sustained growth. In the last four years earnings per share have risen by 169%, dividends have risen by 47% and the share price has shown an almost six-fold increase.

5. Like Guinness, the core assets of the Distillers company are its premium international brands.

As a result, the Guinness management team is uniquely equipped to rationalise, manage and build Distillers business around the world.

Accept the Guinness final offer now.

GUINNESS PLC
Guinness is good for Distillers.

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دستورالعمل

FAMILY MONEY 13

Men take up the fight in row over equality

PENSIONS

The normally sleep-inducing subject of pensions simply refuses to go away. Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the personal finance sections of the newspapers, pensions have resurfaced with a vengeance. This time the issue is equality.

It was sparked off several weeks ago by a European Court of Justice ruling that women should be allowed to retire at the same age as men instead of, as normally happens in the UK, leaving work at 60 while men are allowed to toil on until 65. This prompted the Government this week to publish a consultative document called *Sex Discrimination and Retirement* which proposes to incorporate the European ruling into the Sex Discrimination Bill now before Parliament.

The idea was quickly attacked by a whole range of interests from trade unions to government bodies. But one of the most trenchant criticisms came from the Equal Opportunities Commission. Somewhat uncharacteristically, the commission damned the document as being unfair to men and it pointed out that if implemented it would probably turn out to be illegal anyway.

Some consider the ruling illegal

"We have already had a lot of telephone calls from men complaining that it would be unfair on them if women were allowed to work until 65," said Kath Farrell of the commission.

The reason is because 90 per cent of Britain's company pension schemes work on the basis that women retire and take their pension at 60 and men at 65. If a woman was allowed, under the new law, to carry on working until 65 she could still take her pension at 60 while her male counterparts would still have to wait an extra five years for theirs.

This situation arises because the European Court ruling and the Government's document say nothing about pensions. They are exclusively concerned with equality of employment contracts. Nor do they say anything about giving men the option of retiring at 60 instead of 65.

The unfairness to men created by the effect of equal retirement ages on pensions is also probably illegal, said Kath Farrell. The commission supported a case not long ago of two female Lloyds Bank employees who complained that the bank made smaller pension contributions for them than for their male counterparts. The case went to the European Court which decided that pension contributions counted as part of an employee's pay.

By making different pension contributions for women Lloyds was therefore contra-

vening article 119 of the Treaty of Rome requiring equality of pay between the sexes.

The implication of this judgment is that if women are entitled to take their pension and still continue to work, employers can be accused of giving them a higher remuneration than men.

"The Government never consulted us on this issue," said Kath Farrell. "It is ill-advised of the Government to allow employers to have a different set of rules for the sexes in pension schemes."

This adverse judgment was echoed by Colin Lever, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents more than 90 per cent of occupational schemes. "The Government's whole proposal is half-baked," he said. "There is a wide diversity in the way pension schemes operate but most of them would probably want to change their rules to give women the option of contributing to their pension up to age 65."

Give Hopkins, vice-chairman of the association, pointed out that lengthening the retirement age would at least be simple and cheap for pension funds to adapt to — certainly not as difficult as coping with a shortening of everyone's retirement age. A woman would theoretically have four options to choose from.

Women could have four options

She could simply retire at 60 and take her pension as normal. Or she could carry on working until 65, deferring her pension at 60 for five years. But there would be little point in doing this because it would do nothing to enhance her final pension rights despite the extra five years of work. More likely she would choose to continue contributing to her pension for the five extra years to increase the value of the final payout.

"Many women might welcome the chance to do this since their pension contributions have often been disrupted earlier in life when they

AS SOON AS I'M 60, I'LL COLLECT MY PENSION, FIND ANOTHER JOB THEN LEAVE YOU



Smith

leave employment to bring up a family," said Mr Hopkins.

The fourth choice would be to continue working until 65 but take all or some of her pension at 60. "Many might choose to take their lump sum commutation at 60. It could come in rather useful at that stage," said Mr Hopkins. "A few women are likely to start drawing their regular pension

and continue working. There would be five years of a salary and a pension but thereafter only a pension. Most women would probably choose to carry on contributing to their pension to make it larger when they eventually retire — and I doubt they can do that if they are already drawing their pension."

Richard Thomson

MOTURING

Road users are increasingly at risk as more motorists break the law and fail to take out proper motor insurance. With limited exceptions, anyone who uses a motor vehicle on a road in the UK has to have insurance to cover its use.

The compulsory insurance is broadly to cover personal injury to third parties, although this bare minimum is not readily available from insurance companies. Most people are insured either "third party" — which would cover third-party property damage as well as personal injury — or comprehensively.

However, an increasing number of people are not bothering to insure, though the penalties can on conviction be disqualification and a fine up to £1,000.

In 1984 in England and Wales there were 219,253 convictions for using a motor vehicle without insurance and a further 22,300 written cautions. This must be the tip of the iceberg only.

It is estimated that 10 per cent of motorists are uninsured, so if you are involved in a road traffic accident the chances of the other driver being uninsured are not as remote as you might think.

If an insured driver has the misfortune to be involved in an accident caused by the negligence of a motorist who is not insured, how can that innocent party recover his losses?

After a crash, the greater shock

In a "damage only" accident the insured motorist can, if he has comprehensive insurance, claim on his own policy, although even then there may well be uninsured losses such as the excess on the policy and loss of no claims bonus. But what if the insured motorist is one of those 35 per cent of motorists who have only third party insurance?

The personal liability of the driver at fault is not affected by his lack of insurance and he can be sued for all losses.

Yet often the uninsured motorist is impetuous — that's probably why he is uninsured in the first place — and the innocent party may be just wasting money in trying to recover his losses by taking fruitless court proceedings. He may well end up footing the bills himself.

If the innocent motorist has the greater misfortune to be injured in an accident caused by the negligent driving of an uninsured driver, then at least so far as those personal injuries are concerned he can be assured of receiving appropriate compensation.

The Motor Insurers' Bureau was set up in 1946 by the insurance companies, with the agreement of the Government, as an extra-statutory body, specifically to compensate innocent victims of acci-

dents involving uninsured drivers and of so-called hit-and-run drivers where the uninsured or untraced driver is at fault.

Compensation is, however, payable only for those risks which a motorist has to insure against — in other words for personal injury only.

The bureau derives its funds from the insurance companies which execute motor insurance policies and the cost is passed on to the motorist who insures as part of the premium required for insurance. However, Britain's membership of the EEC will be bringing changes to our laws on motor insurance which have remained substantially unchanged for over 30 years.

On December 30, 1983, the Second European Community Motor Insurance Directive was adopted by member states. The changes required have to be brought into effect in the UK by December 31, 1988, at the latest.

The most significant effect is to require Britain to extend the definition of compulsory third party insurance — the minimum insurance which every motorist must have — to cover not only personal injury in third parties, but also damage to third-party property.

That by itself is not going to have a significant effect on insurance premiums because most insurance policies already cover this.

But this change in definition to embrace third-party damage will have a substantial effect on the functions of the Motor Insurers' Bureau. It will be paying damages for personal injuries as before but will also be liable to pay the cost of repairs to third-party property when the driver at fault is uninsured, regardless of whether anyone was injured.

Anomalously, however, it is not proposed to extend this to cover cases of damage to property where there is a hit-and-run driver, or the rather spurious argument that it would open the way to fraud by those who damaged their own property and then allege that an unidentified driver was responsible.

There are also decisions to be made on other points such as whether there will be an excess on property damage claims — it seems almost certain there will be one. Nonetheless, it seems likely they will be brought into effect well before the deadline of December 31, 1988. When they are in force, the Motor Insurers' Bureau will be paying out perhaps very substantial additional sums.

The bureau's funding arrangements will not be changing and thus the effect on the motorist who does insure will be that there will inevitably be a sharp increase in the cost

Ian Brewer

NEW TRUST LAUNCH

First public offer of units

Our fresh approach to Europe can get your money growing

In the last few years, the investment climate in Europe has changed dramatically.

Private investment is now being actively encouraged, and a large number of companies are now issuing shares as a way of raising capital.

And Europe is enjoying sustained economic growth.

This combination of increasing economic freedom and all-round growth has made today's Europe a highly attractive investment proposition.

And the promise of more certain political stability for most of the Continent makes this a good time to be getting into Europe.

Which is why we are launching the new TSB European Unit Trust now.

TSB's view of Europe

Not for us the fashionable choice of the moment, or the faddish flavour of the month.

Because Europe is not one market, but many. This is why we aim to seek out those Continental companies which, because of their special positions within the European economic structure, look set to maintain improving growth.

Europe's best prospects

By far the best prospects for profit lie in those European countries with sound industrial and commercial bases. And the promise of yet more growth to come.

Germany, Switzerland, France, Holland, Italy, Sweden and the UK will be among the countries we'll be working in to secure our prime objective: sustained and solid growth from a broad spread of carefully selected shares.

Our experience in Europe

Though TSB European Unit Trust is a new venture, we are not newcomers to Europe.

We have already achieved considerable success on the Continent with over £68 million invested there through TSB Investment Management Limited, the Investment Managers to this Trust.

And we are well-placed to build on this profitable experience.

Our Investment Managers have an extensive network of contacts across all the major markets of Europe.

They have immediate access to the research and intelligence of some of the leading banks in Germany, France and Switzerland. And make regular visits to selected companies to assess their investment potential.

All of which means that a holding in the new TSB European Unit Trust could see you moving into profit through 1986, and the years ahead.

Profits over the longer term

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. And you should regard your investment as being a medium to long term one.

Which in this case, and in this trust, is a good thing. Because we believe our approach to Europe is one that will pay off over the longer term.

Invest now at the initial price

To make your investment in the new TSB European Unit Trust, simply complete the buying order below. (You'll see we're now offering you the opportunity to buy units with your Trustcard.)

Act before April 15th 1986 and you'll be able to buy units at the fixed initial offer price of 50p. After that, units will be offered at the price ruling on the day we receive your order.

You owe it to yourself to act today.

TSB EUROPEAN UNIT TRUST BUYING ORDER

FIXED INITIAL OFFER PRICE OF 50p UNTIL APRIL 15th 1986

To: Ann Roberts, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Tel: (0264) 63432/5/4

(BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE) Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms (Postmaster)

I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £250)

Summ

In the TSB EUROPEAN UNIT TRUST at the initial offer price of 50p per unit, provided I/we invest on or before April 15th 1986, thereafter at the offer price ruling on receipt of this Buying Order.

Address

I/We enclose a cheque payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited, or - Please debit my TRUSTCARD account by £

Signature

My card no. is

Date

As a general rule, Accumulation Units, with income reinvested, will be issued to all investors. If you would prefer Income Units, with income distributed twice a year, please tick here.

Postcode

In the case of joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach their names and addresses on a separate piece of paper. This offer is only open to investors who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland. 5 of 1

TARGET AMERICAN EAGLE FUND

INVEST FOR GROWTH IN 1986

The prospect for investors in the United States stockmarket this year looks particularly favourable. Factors which lead us to this view include:

- ★ The fall in the value of the Dollar — which is helping to restore the competitiveness of US industry.
- ★ The fall in world oil prices — which should have a beneficial impact on economic growth and help preserve low levels of inflation.
- ★ An expectation of a significant rise in corporate earnings — evidence of which has already begun to emerge since the last quarter of 1985.

While there are interesting opportunities in the small company and technology sectors, we consider those investing in the American economy in 1986 should primarily concentrate on larger, blue chip companies. The portfolio of Target American Eagle Fund reflects the view that stocks with the greatest potential for growth lie in typically special areas, such as chemicals and engineering. It is assumed that the portfolio of the Fund will focus on around 30 such stocks to achieve concentrated performance.

Free Cassette

The manager of the Target American Eagle Fund has recently returned from the US where he undertook an in-depth study of the potential investment opportunities.

We have presented his findings in the form of a Cassette. To receive your free copy, simply complete and return the coupon below if you have a professional adviser and wish to invest in the Target American Eagle Fund. We suggest you contact him without delay.

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Please send me a copy of the Target American Eagle Fund Cassette.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Name of Professional Adviser: _____

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Managers: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association). Investment Managers: TSB Investment Management Limited.

Trustees: General Accident Executor and Trustee Company Limited.

Charges: There is a 5% initial charge; thereafter 1% per annum (plus VAT) of the Fund's value, deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1 1/2% per annum; the Managers will give shareholders at least 3 months' written notice of any change. These charges are included in the offer price of units.

Selling costs: Units can be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions.

TSB Unit Trusts Limited is one of the most successful companies in its field. It is also one of the largest. Turning in a consistently good performance, it looks after around £1,000 million on behalf of people like you. And it's part of the group that likes to say 'yes'.

Payment will normally be made within 7 days of receipt of a renounced unit certificate.

Commissions: Payable to qualified agents at rates which are available on request.

Price/Yield: Until April 15th 1986, the initial offer price for Accumulation/Income Units will be 50p and the estimated gross yield 1.60%. Thereafter, units will be allocated at the offer price ruling on the date of receipt of applications. Prices and yield are quoted daily in the national press.

Income: First distribution April 2nd 1987; thereafter income will be payable on April 2nd and October 2nd each year.

Registered Office: Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Registered in England and Wales number 1629925.



'Which Car?' reviewed 90 family cars. Only 1 was awarded the 'Best Buy'



MITSUBISHI GALANT 1.6 GL—£6899
 NISSAN SUNNY 1300 GS—£5726
 VAUXHALL NOVA 1300 GL—£5939
 HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 GSL—£6199
 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GL—£7174
 ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.8—£7950

TOYOTA CARINA 1600—£6959
 DAIHATSU CHARMANT 1.6 LE—£5899
 MAZDA 1600 GL—£6551
 SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLS—£6710

SAAB 900—£6200

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6 LD—£7081

FIAT REGATA 100 SUPER—£7540

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1.6 HL—£7590

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA CD—£6861

FIAT REGATA 70 COMFORT—£5925

RENAULT 9 BROADWAY 1.6 D—£6130

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1600—£6200

MITSUBISHI LANCER 1800—£6899

RENAULT 9 BROADWAY 1.6 D—£6130

NISSAN SUNNY 1300 GS—£5726

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VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

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VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3—£6015

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568

HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 SL—£5599

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3—£6015

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

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FIAT REGATA 100 SUPER—£7540

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NISSAN SUNNY 1300 GS—£5726

MAZDA 323 1500—£6551

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6 LD—£7081

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1300—£5726

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568

HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 SL—£5599

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3—£6015

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568

HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 SL—£5599

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ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568

HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 SL—£5599

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3—£6015

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

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VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6 LD—£7081

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1300—£5726

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SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

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VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568

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SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568

HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 SL—£5599

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3—£6015

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

As you can see, they were all in there pitching to become Which Car?'s 'Best Buy' - the Orion, Cavalier, Montego - family cars from Alfa to Volkswagen.

But it took the Fiat Regata to show them all the way home with a combination of virtues that put the result beyond doubt.

To use Which Car?'s own words:

"Performance is one of the Regata's strong suits...The twin cam 100 Super can manage a class-leading 109 mph and the 0-60 mph dash in under 10 secs."

"...ride comfort is good...and handling safe and predictable."

"The Regata's interior is spacious...equipment levels are high too. In total, the Regata is quiet and refined."

"A truly massive boot makes the point that the Regata is a very competent load carrier as well."

"Fiat have gone to a lot of trouble to make the Regata one of the most refined economy machines in its class...All versions return very good fuel economy, however hard they are driven."

And to sum up:

"Buy a Regata and you get a lot of car for your money. All models are well equipped when compared with rivals and although the Regata never sets out to be

a massive car it uses its interior space to great effect. In addition, all models are pleasant to drive, handle predictably and shouldn't cost a fortune to run."

Neither will they cost a fortune to buy. Your Fiat dealer can show you all five 1.3 and 1.6 litre Regata saloons and two estates at prices that start at £5,695!

But talk to him now - he may be able to tempt you even more with a very special offer.

And in any event, choose a Regata and you'll drive away with Which Car?'s assurance that you couldn't have made a better decision.

Regata From £5,695†

FIAT

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REGATA RANGE FROM £5,695-£8,460. †PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. BUT EXCLUDES NUMBER PLATES, DELIVERY AND ROAD TAX. OFFICIAL DOE FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE REGATA 100S (ILLUSTRATED) 47.9MPG (5.9L/100KM) AT A CONSTANT 56MPH, 35.8MPG (7.9L/100KM) AT A CONSTANT 75MPH, 27.2MPG (10.4L/100KM), URBAN CYCLE. *WHERE LEGAL SPEED LIMITS PERMIT. ALL DATA FROM WHICH CAR? FEB 86.

هناك في السوق

FAMILY MONEY/4

Check the small print to keep the risks low

BUSINESS EXPANSION

The Budget proposals on the Business Expansion Scheme have caused most of the heavy asset backed umbrellas to close their doors or further investors. The requirement that no more than half the net assets of a company aspiring to BES status can be held in land and buildings means that post Budget investors' tax relief on investment in heavy asset backed ventures is at risk.

It is by no means certain at this stage whether the half-net assets test will deter the property-based schemes or simply lead to a glut of highly geared asset backed projects. But it is significant that in its most recent utterance on the subject the Inland Revenue has stated that the Finance Bill will include a power to change the proportion in the test - by statutory instrument.

One offer remaining open - at least for the early days of the new tax year - is a project to establish a chain of quick print shops called Sir Speedy Printing Centres.

The company is looking for up to £2 million to exploit a licence to use various print-related trademarks and tradenames in western Europe. The licence comes from Sir Speedy Inc, which according to the prospectus, "is recognized as the fastest growing quick print franchise in the US." The idea, at this stage, is to set up a chain of Sir Speedy print shops in London and other European outlets. Five outlets have already been bought and the minimum subscription of £300,000 is already underwritten.

As BES issues go this one certainly has some distinctive features. First, although shareholders are being asked for £1 a share, the directors, sponsors and various other interests have acquired or been allotted shares, either at 2p or 25p a share. The sponsors say it is difficult to give a breakdown as to whom exactly paid what amount.

Either way, 3.5 million shares have been issued at a substantial discount to the current offer price. Why is this?

"When we put our money up there was no business, no shops, no company," says Daniel Montano of sponsors Montano Securities, who points out that the BES issue is really the third round of

BUSINESS EXPANSION COMPANIES

Table with columns: Company, Activity, Sponsor, Telephone, and Issue Min Closing Date. Lists various companies like Acorn Hardwoods, Alan Paul, Alliance Asset Mgmt, etc.

finance for the business. "Shouldn't the question be whether the investors are going to get a profit?" Sir Speedy has certainly bought the leases of a number of outlets and is operational in London. But the balance sheet in the prospectus shows that as at September 30, 1985 there had been no turnover. The leases were acquired after this date.

"In the US the normal formula is that the investors pay half their money for brains and half for capital. Over here everyone thinks that brains count for nothing. I sincerely believe that someone who pays £1 for his share will have a share worth £10 in five years."

Mr Montano also points out that the BES company does have an option to buy back 2,100,000 shares held by some of the directors and Montano Corporation - the parent company of the sponsors - for a nominal sum if the shares in the company do not increase by a certain value after the expiry of six years.

In fact it is only if the shares in the BES company have quadrupled in value that, in theory at least, those subject to the option will not be subject to a clawback of their shareholdings. But will the option in practice be exercised?

Assuming that the full subscription is reached, Montano Corporation, the directors and a Trust which is underwriting the offer, will between them have 49.85 per cent of the share capital of the company and in theory be able to block the exercise by the company of the option.

However, according to Daniel Montano, the option

will be triggered automatically if the increases are not reached and any change in the option terms would leave the sponsors open to an action for issuing a misleading prospectus. Moreover, the option framework, rather than an outright gift, was decided upon for legal reasons.

Finally, intermediaries who put in applications for more than 25,000 shares will, in addition to commission, be

given warrants to subscribe for shares at £1 or £1.50 (depending on the date they choose to exercise them) at the rate of one warrant for every 10 shares applied for through them.

Giving an intermediary what is effectively a no-risk handout, on top of commission, is hardly an encouragement to provide objective independent advice.

Lawrence Lever

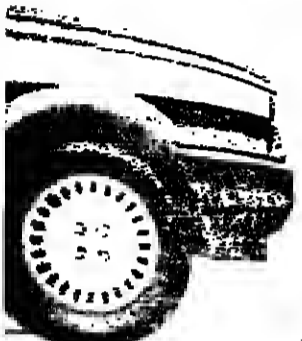
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INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Current account - no interest paid. Deposit accounts - seven days, notice required for withdrawals. Barclays 6.00 per cent, Lloyds 5.75 per cent, Midland 5.75 per cent, NatWest 5.625 per cent, National Girobank 5.75 per cent. Fixed term deposits: £10,000 to £24,999: 1 month 6.00 per cent, 3 months 7.625 per cent, 6 months 7.00 per cent (National Westminster), 1 month 7.75 per cent, 3 months 7.392 per cent, 6 months 6.725 per cent (Midland). Other banks may differ.

Table with columns: Fund, Net CNAR, Telephone. Lists various funds like Aulian Home, Avon Ind, etc.

CNAR - Compounded Net Annual Rate. Figures are the latest available at the time of going to press.

National Savings Bank: Ordinary accounts - if a minimum balance of £100 maintained for whole of 1986, 6 per cent interest p.a. for each complete month where balance is over £500, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11.5 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond: Minimum investment £2,000, maximum £50,000. Interest 12.00 per cent variable at six weeks notice paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Indexed Income Bond: Start rate monthly income for first year 6 per cent, increased at end of each year to match increase in prices as measured by Retail Prices Index. Cash value remains the same. Income taxable, payable gross. Three months notice of withdrawal. Minimum investment of £5,000 in multiples of £1,000. Maximum £50,000.

National Savings 3rd Index-Linked Certificate: Maximum investment - £5,000 excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 2.5 per cent in the first year, 2.75 per cent in the second, 3.25 per cent in the third, 4 per cent in the fourth, and 5.25 per cent in the fifth. Value of Retirement Issue Certificate purchased in March 1981, £15.50 including bonus and supplement February RPI 381.1. (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month).

National Savings Certificate 31st issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 7.85 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Yearly Plan: A one year regular savings plan converting into 4-year savings plan certificates. Minimum £20 a month, maximum £200. Return over five years 8.19 per cent, tax free.

National Savings Deposit Bond: Minimum investment £100, maximum £50,000. Interest 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice credited annually without deduction of tax. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds: Return paid net of basic rate tax; higher rate taxpayers may have a liability on maturity. 182 yrs New Direction Finance - 9.63 per cent; New Direction Finance - 8.75 per cent; Credit & Commerce - 8.65 per cent; Trans Inter - 8.1 per cent.

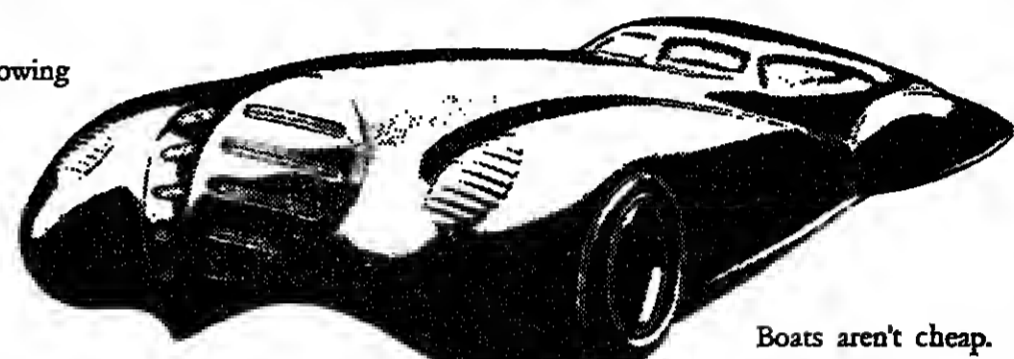
Building Societies: Ordinary share accounts - 8.00 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent over ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits: Rates quoted by Romeschi's Old Court International Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Table with columns: Currency, Rate. Lists rates for US dollar, Yen, D.Mark, French Franc, Swiss Franc.

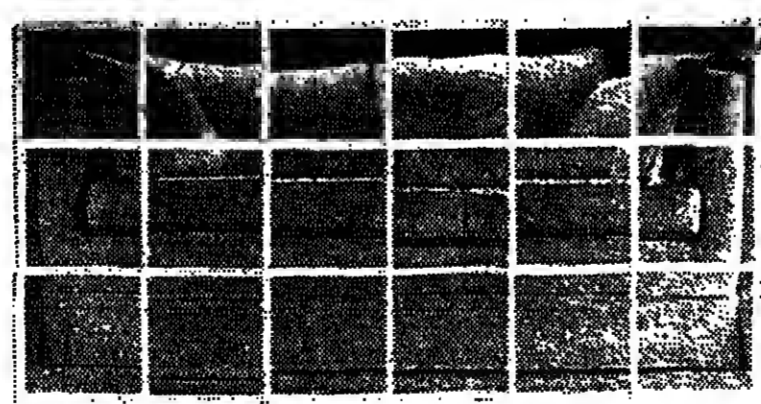
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Did YOU know that 16 of the top 20 best performing shares of 1985 were all 'PENNY' Shares!

... and that every single one, bar one, had been recommended in the Penny Share Guide

Of course, past achievement is no guarantee for future success, but we have said it before on many occasions, that there is a 'definite logic' to 'penny' shares... the very fact that they are so low means that they often quite literally have only one way to go and that's up. The downside is strictly limited but the upside is almost literally infinite as *Wires & Plastics*, last year's PSG winner (+750%) decisively proved, following in a tradition set by the likes of *Polly Pack* and *Pentland Industries*, which in point of fact were, at their peak, up many thousands of per cent. You might also be interested to know that not one of the worst performing shares of the year in either the large company category or the small (source: *Daily Telegraph*) had been recommended in PSG, so it's by no means a scattergun approach. Serious research does pay off. If that's what you're interested in for 1986, just drop us a line today, you could find yourself joining one of our subscribers who turned £2,485 into £97,988 in 4 1/2 years... in 'penny' shares!

To: The Penny Share Guide Ltd, 3 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AU. Yes, please send me FREE details on 'Penny' Shares and the 'Penny Share Guide'... today. T 5/4
Name: _____ BLOCK
Address: _____ LETTERS
Post Code: _____ PLEASE

Final call for BT investors

British Telecom shareholders have to make the final payment for their shares by Wednesday next week, April 9. If they do not they will forfeit the shares - and the handsome profits they are now sitting on. And it is not now possible to sell in the market - you have to cough up the cash whether you like it or not.

This is the final call for cash - shareholders have already paid 90p a share and there is 40p still to find. But with BT shares standing at 278p even those who may not have the money readily available should have no trouble in persuading the bank manager to grant an overdraft against the security of the shares.

If you do not pay up you will forfeit the shares and receive just the 90p you have paid so far. At the last cash call by Wednesday next either did not notice or couldn't afford to pay, out of a total of 1.7 million shareholders. This time round the numbers should be far lower since all those left have had experience of what to do and when.

But if you are in doubt, check with British Telecom on their special *Line*. The numbers are (0345) 010505 or (0345) 010707.

Royal security

At least one of the leading insurance companies is giving genuine discounts for security measures. Royal Insurance, which covers more than two million homes in Britain, is offering a cascade of discounts for measures to keep out the burglars as well as useful discounts for taking a voluntary excess. Households with a burglar alarm fitted and maintained by one of nine approved companies qualify for a 5 per cent discount, but those that fit door and window locks to an approved standard as well will get a 15 per cent discount. A burglar alarm system costs between £400 and £1,000.

Households belonging to a neighbourhood watch scheme will get a further 5 per cent discount - making a possible discount of 20 per cent for security measures. On top of that, automatic excesses have been swept away in favour of giving householders a choice - £25 excess for a 5 per cent discount, £50 for 7.5 per cent, and £100 for a 15 per cent; and Royal



is willing to consider giving higher discounts for even larger excesses. But even the standard package means a possible saving of 35 per cent on the standard price. But how competitive is the standard rate in the first place? Royal's premium, as you might expect, are not in the bargain basement category. But they undercut the only existing policy from a major insurer to give discounts for security measures.

Sun Alliance's Firemark policy has an automatic £100 excess and offers a 10 per cent discount for good security. But while new-for-old cover for £20,000 of contents costs between £70 and £240 with the Royal depending on where you live, a Firemark policy costs between £110 and £280.

The biggest bill

How much is your building society spending on management? According to figures put together by the Supton Building Society, the most efficient with management expenses of just 39p for each £100 of assets compared with £1.29 at the Alliance & Leicester. Of the larger societies Cheltenham & Gloucester scores well, with management expenses of just 65p per £100 of assets and the Woolwich is well up among the leaders with a management expense ratio of £1.01. Naturally, the Supton does well with an expense ratio of 92p per £100 of assets. Figures relate to the top 20 building societies - plus the Supton.

Awash with loans

Home loans as a loss-leader seem to be a great success for the banks in rounding up new customers. Lloyds Bank, for example, has received applications for nearly £50 million in home loans, has agreed 10,000 personal loans amounting to nearly £15 million and opened more than 25,000 accounts at the 183

branches which open on Saturday.

Time savers

Anyone who has ever had a house for sale will confirm that the real bugbear is the time-waster - those who simply come to look and have no intention of buying and others who want to buy but haven't yet got the money fixed up. Two new services have been launched - both with the same basic idea that you have a guaranteed mortgage facility so that when you go to buy a house, the estate agent and the vendor know you are serious.

John Charcol's Guaranteed Mortgage Card looks like the standard credit card but carries the name of the holder plus the maximum mortgage advance for which he or she is eligible. This scheme is particularly attractive for the purchaser as the mortgage is not selected until a property has been found, so the buyer is able to take full advantage of the current mortgage offers available, of which there are many. The right decision could save £48 a month on a £30,000 mortgage - and no legal fees.

The mortgage point is a similar scheme, offering a Mortgage Guarantee Card and advice on the best type of home loan. Stuart Codling and Bob Sanderson who are launching The Mortgage Point aim to be open seven days a week and until 9pm during the week. They will also be able to offer free legal fees. Full details of both services from John Charcol Ltd, Mercury House, 106 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RE. Tel: 01-589 7080. The Mortgage Point, The Granary, 50 Barton Road, Worsley, Manchester 28, tel. 061-794 8421.

Pensions advice

The freedom to opt out of a company pension scheme and make your own provision for

retirement, contained in the Government's social-security proposals, will mean that everyone will have to make a judgment about how well they think their pension fund will perform. Since most people have difficulty understanding what they will get from their pension fund anyway, it seems highly unlikely that overnight pension fund members will be capable of making this important decision.

Many in the industry fear that employees will fall victim to fast-talking pension sales representatives who will use unrealistic projections to sell personal pension plans to individuals.

Euro success

Europe remains the unit trust investors' firm favourite - at least, for those who have bought Clerical Medical units. Thirty-four per cent of all investors who responded to the launch of Clerical Medical's four new unit trusts opted for Europe. 22.2 per cent for Japan, 21.9 per cent for the gift fund and 21.3 per cent put their money into the American trust. More than £5 million was invested during the initial-offer period of three weeks.

Home cheer

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is offering home loans of more than £30,000 at the highly attractive rate of only 11.75 per cent - a full 0.25 per cent below most of the competition. The new rate applies to endowment and pension-linked loans taken out after April 6, 1986. The tiny Tipton & Coseley Building Society is also offering loans at 11.75 per cent from May 1, and there is no premium for having an endowment loan.

Details from Cheltenham & Gloucester branches or from Tipton & Coseley Building Society, 57-60 High Street, Tipton, West Midlands (021 557 2551).

Debt alert

If you are feeling bad about your overdraft then you might take some comfort in the news that consumers generally owe a staggering £175,000 million to banks, building societies, credit card companies and finance houses. "Multiple debt on such a large scale has to be managed responsibly," said Ian Miller, chairman of the Finance Houses Association.

Consumers' total indebtedness would rise Mr Miller said. "They are less afraid of debt than their parents and much more aware of what money can do."

May Day debut

May 1 sees eight new unit trusts from fund managers Standard Life, generally better known for their life and pensions policies. Investors who put money into the new funds between May 1-15 will get an extra 2 per cent allocation of units. "Standard Life has 160 years' experience of managing money and it is well known for its with-profits bonus results," said Tom King, of Standard Life. The company's savings type policies regularly appear in the top ten performance tables of with profits endowment policies.

The eight trusts being launched cover the whole range of investment opportunities from a general managed trust to European, Far East and other specialist trusts. Minimum investment at £1,000 might deter a few.

Beating Big Bang

No frills dealing services offered by stockbrokers are springing up like mushrooms as alternative sources of income before Big Bang does away with fixed commissions. Latest entrant is stockbroker Henry Cooke Lumsden with its Marketlink service.

Provided you know what you want to buy or sell, Henry Cooke Lumsden will carry out your telephone instructions at one of the most competitive rates in the business. For small bargains of £50 you will be charged a flat commission of £5, between £50 and £100 the commission is £8, between £100 and £550 it is a flat £10 with the normal 1.65 per cent being charged above that level.

But all is not sweetness and light in the world of telephone dealing services. One disgruntled reader of *The Times* complains that when he used Outbiter Goodison's Share Shop facility at the Debenhams store in Oxford Street, he got short shrift when he started to ring once or twice a day to check on prices.

Quitters have investigated the complaint. How will Henry Cook Lumsden cope with the potential problem? No broker can afford to answer thousands of customer enquiries. "We will play it by ear" commented David Lumsden.

He sees the spread of share quotation services through Prestel and the like as the answer to this particular problem. Details of the new service from Henry Cooke Lumsden, City Wall House, 84-90 Chiswell Street, London EC4Y 4TX.

First rate monthly income.

The Cheltenham Premier Income Account offers the best monthly income rate from any national building society.

Invest £10,000 or more and we pay you an impressive 8.75% net. Interest is paid on the first of each month, and automatically added to your account to earn the top rate of 9.11% CAR†. If you prefer, we can pay your interest directly to another C&G account, your bank or your home. You can also add to your investment at any time with sums of £1,000 or more.

No withdrawals can be made during the first six months after opening the account but thereafter you can make withdrawals of £1,000 or more without notice or penalty. You must maintain a balance of at least £10,000 for the account to remain open.

The rate offered on the Cheltenham Premier Income Account may vary. However, in keeping with our reputation for offering outstanding investment accounts, you can be sure that the rate will remain highly competitive.

To open an account call into your nearest C&G branch. If that is not convenient, you can operate your account from your home or office, post free, with the C&G By Post service.

The Cheltenham Premier Income Account. Another first from the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

The Premier
INCOME ACCOUNT

9.11% CAR
8.75% NET
ON £10,000 OR MORE

To: Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, PO Box 124, FREEPOST, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7PW.
I/We enclose £_____ to open a Cheltenham Premier Income Account (Minimum £10,000 Maximum £250,000)
 Please send more details PTT1
Full Name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
If you require your monthly interest payments to be made to another C&G account, your bank account or your home, please give details in writing.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

CHIEF OFFICE: CHELTENHAM HOUSE, CLARENCE STREET, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. GL50 3JR. TEL: 0242 36161.
Member of the Building Societies Association and Investors' Protection Scheme. Assets exceed £3,300 million.
Branches throughout the UK. See Yellow Pages.

†Compounded Annual Rate.

How to know your SRO

Hands up those who are confused by the proliferation of so-called self-regulatory organizations - SROs for short - that have appeared lately. At the moment there are seven actual or mooted SROs, although the Securities and Investments Board, overseer of the individual SROs, is hoping that the final version of city self-regulation will appear with only five SROs.

The merger or convergence of at least two SROs looks likely to happen soon. Nasdim - the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers - is to announce that it is joining up with Laitro - the Life and Unit Trust Intermediaries Regulatory Organization. Nasdim started life as a collection of market makers and portfolio managers, although its membership has

recently been swelled by life and unit-trust intermediaries who have chosen membership of Nasdim as an alternative to a licence from the Department of Trade and Industry. Laitro was aimed at intermediaries selling life insurance and unit-trust products. Its range is broad, from professional broking firms to the retired colonel selling life insurance as a sideline.

The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organization (Laitro), is intended to encompass primarily authorized UK insurers and managers of authorized unit trusts. There is a suggestion but no more than this, that it might link with the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO). The latter will take in investment managers and advisers. The Stock Exchange - another

SRO - is having discussions with a steering group from the International Securities Regulatory Organization. Isro is looking to govern matters such as the Eurobond market, swaps and short-term instruments. Its discussions with the Stock Exchange concern trading in international equities, or the leading UK shares, which are often traded between large international institutions without going through the Stock Exchange. The Exchanges does not want to be left out in the cold in the trading of major UK shares, hence its talks with Isro to see if the two can between them produce a investment exchange that would be recognized under the new self-regulatory framework for the City.

Lawrence Lever

IT'S YOUR LIFE

Saving for Retirement?

With London Life your savings can attract a net yield of 22% p.a.*

There's no better time to begin making provision for a prosperous retirement than the present - and no better way of doing so than with a London Life retirement savings plan. With London Life a net outlay of just £50 per month over a ten year period could produce a cash fund of £19,761* to provide retirement benefits - which represents a net annual yield of 22.5%*. A very impressive figure to say the least - but how exactly is it achieved? The answer is simple. The plan is one of the most tax-efficient on the market.

- Tax relief at a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 60% on each contribution.
- The savings accumulate in a tax-free fund.
- Tax-free lump sum payable at retirement.

Increasing life cover up to retirement, payable free of Capital Transfer Tax. As one of the first offices to enter the field of personal pensions, our experience and expertise are second to none - one of the reasons why we are able to offer some of the most competitive plans on the market. Another reason for London Life's new service from London Life is the fact that we pay no commission, and our staff are trained to provide a particularly high standard of advice and service to policyholders. That all adds up to a very attractive proposition. If you would like to find out how attractive, fill in and return the coupon below.



To: New Business Department, The London Life Association Limited, Freepost, 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6VJ (no stamp required).
The London Life's retirement savings plan is not open to everyone. To find out whether you are eligible, complete the coupon today.
Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Preferred Retirement Age _____
Amount of Monthly Savings _____ Tax Rate _____ %
Are you a member of a Company Pension Scheme? _____
Tel. No: Business _____ Home _____
(Alternatively, if you prefer you can call Carole Wainwright or Sally Hill on 0800-717111 - free of charge.)

London Life - over 175 years of assurance

Handwritten note: *Handwritten text in a box at the bottom of the page.*

Imperial Shareholders: which side should you come down on?

United Imperial.

A cohesive group with three related and complementary businesses.

A proven record of success in the management of leading brands.

Opportunities for cost savings and faster profit growth by combining operations.

Profit growth mainly organic, fuelled by high capital investment of over 4% of annual sales in 1985.

All UB's offers provide higher income than Hanson's 'best' bid*

Agreed management plans to exploit growth opportunities in food and leisure industries.

Hanson Trust.

A conglomerate currently operating in some fifteen different business sectors.

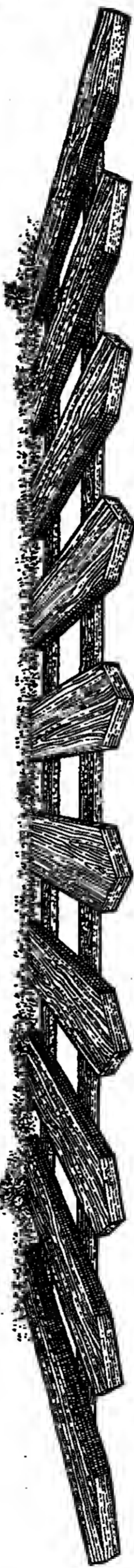
Limited experience of managing branded consumer businesses.

No similar opportunity.

Profit growth mainly by acquisition (capital spending just over 2% of annual sales in 1985).

Hanson's highest income offer (the cash alternative) is worth only 293p per share, or 64p less than Imperial's current market price.

No clear plans. Wait and see.



This stark comparison makes it absolutely clear why the Board of Imperial urgently and unanimously recommend that you accept the United Biscuits offer.

UB and Imperial are natural partners for future growth and prosperity. By accepting the UB offer, you ensure that the majority of your investment will remain in Imperial businesses. This is the only way you can "stay with Imperial."

Time is now short. The future of your company -

its brands, its businesses, its people - may depend on your action.

So please, today, sign and send off the white UB acceptance form. It must arrive by 3:00 pm this coming Friday, 11th April 1986.

If you are in any doubt how to complete the form, please telephone our helpline: 0272 666961.

If you would like to hear why your Chairman,

Mr Geoffrey Kent, and the Imperial Board unanimously recommend the UB offer, please ask the operator for Freefone Imperial Group.



DAYS LEFT TO ACCEPT
UB OFFER

10 · 9 · 8 · 7 · 6 · 5 · 4 · 3 · 2 · 1

The sources for the information contained in this advertisement are set out or referred to in Imperial Group and Hanson Trust 1985 Annual Reports, UB's Preliminary Statement and the letter from the Chairman, Imperial Group plc to shareholders dated 3rd April 1986. Imperial's share price is the closing price on 2nd April 1986. The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly. *The reference to Hanson's 'best' bid relates to the Hanson alternative offering the biggest capital value.

FRENCH STOCKS

HARVARD SECURITIES are pleased to announce that we are now making a market in the following French Stocks:-

- ACCOR
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CIE BANCAIRE
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LOUIS VUITTON
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Further stocks will be added to in the coming months. If you are interested in trading in French Stocks please contact:- Bryan Symons on 01-928 2237.



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WE GUARANTEE TO MAXIMISE YOUR INCOME

How?

- * By advising you which investment gives the most income
* By reducing your income tax bill
* By making your capital grow to increase your income in the future.

Knight Williams has specialised for many years in identifying income investments for retired people. Send for full details.

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Ground rules for the rental business

PROPERTY

It is estimated that the residential rental market of London flats and houses is now earning the owners well over £40 million a year.

The business has mushroomed in the past two years and is growing, with hundreds of agents opening specialist departments to deal exclusively with rentals.

Though it is possible to acquire substantial rental returns on properties outside London - a three-bedroom house with a swimming pool at £350 a week in Kingston, near London, for instance - the real Golden Triangle is bordered by Knightsbridge, Belgravia and Mayfair.

Many landlords in these places are owners who will have bought their properties years ago at a "historic cost" and for them gross returns on rents are spectacular. Many of them are older and live mostly in the country, so agents have discovered a whole new business in letting their properties, often to overseas personnel.

Where do the tenants come from? A great many seem to be Americans working for banks and corporations. Many others are foreign diplomatic staff and some are just suddenly wealthy individuals whose countries have, for one reason or another, provided them with almost instant wealth - Nigerians, for instance, or some Middle East people who have floated to London on a sea of oil earnings and now educate their children at private schools here.

Latterly the Hong Kong Chinese have made a significant appearance.

Among the most popular tenants are the South Africans and the New Zealanders, who tend to pay regularly, return the property in good order and do not make a fuss.

Among the least popular are the Nigerians who tend to have big families. One horror story told by a London agent was of the family who rented a house at £3,000 a week for three months. Dilapidations cost £5,000.

Some Middle East tenants also fail to get into the landlords' popularity list and for this the recent case of the Syrian who failed to vacate his flat until the Queen personally



Chesterfield Street in Mayfair - part of the Golden Triangle of the property letting business

Here is a real-life example of a landlord's cost and profits for a year's tenancy just ended in Cadogan Square, for a two-bedroom, two-bathroom flat valued at £300,000, with contents insured for £60,000.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Gross rent (£22,100), Outgoings, Agents' commission (£2,541.50), Inventory (£50), Rates (£1,100.00), Service charge (£2,500.00), Landlord received (£15,958.50).

But the story does not end there. During the year the tenant managed to break a lavatory, which cost £515 to repair (the agents just kept on

intervened must bear some blame.

Americans are less popular than they were. As one agent told me: "Some are super - no trouble at all - but some of them seem totally incapable or unwilling to do the simplest thing for themselves."

And since calling in the plumbers of London is now a feat of endurance likely to cost £30 before they even get through the door, tenants who ring the agent to deal with the plumbing are understandably not popular.

What are the financial facts? Savills, one of the biggest agents in the market, estimate that a really spruce two-bedroom flat in the Golden Triangle will earn a gross rent

HISTORY OF A HOUSE TO LET

calling in a plumber until he almost by accident managed to replace it; the waste disposer was replaced at £158 (after it failed to chew up three valuable silver spoons).

Other calls were made because the dishwasher seemed to frighten his wife, the lights fused in the sitting room and that frightened her even more, and when an external overflow actually did just that, the tenants appeared to believe the building would collapse from water pressure.

The landlord said: "Plumbers and electricians never

THE LANDLORD'S VIEW

seemed to be away from the place and I began to think my tenants needed their own private social worker to see them through the rigours of living in SW1 in a flat which had proved an uneventful residence until then."

The landlord received his flat back at the end of the tenancy with a list of "deteriorations", which included a gas log fire and a TV set which did not work and broken tiles in shower and bathroom.

The agent took a sanguine view, wanting to put most of it down to "fair wear and tear."

The landlord's view was that because the repairs and cleaning were to cost about £1,000, "fair wear and tear" was not fair.

The landlord said: "I was holding £1,800 deposit; I just got the work done and sent in the receipts. "Would he do it again? "Yes," he said. "I'm wiser now and, after all, the property can always be cleaned and repaired, providing you have the money in hand."

"The benefit is that the flat continues to increase in value and to provide a useful income while it does."

ting a valuable London property there are some absolutely golden rules.

Do not ever be persuaded to let to an individual. It has to be a company or embassy - the Shortlet Leasing Act notwithstanding. Owners should remember they are letting a property worth anything from £150,000 to £1 million to just a month's rent that they will get the place back on time and in good order. That's the real equation.

Foreigners newly arrived at our shores take only days to learn how helpful our Rent Acts are to them, although at first they find it difficult to believe that a Government would be as benevolent to them as our own.

Agents will urge owners to "take a view" on the acceptability of some would-be tenant whose company won't sign on the dotted line. Don't.

Some companies won't sign because they have learned in the past how much trouble a bad tenant can cause. Companies inevitably pay up - individuals don't. The growth of the market has come about because London flats are not so valuable, even international companies are unwilling to tie up huge sums of capital to house an executive in a company flat. Rents come out of income - purchases are capital.

Some agents demand the whole year's letting fee from the first quarter's rent. If the tenant then reneges the owner has neither rent nor tenant. Companies don't renege.

Golden rule number two is: take a deposit, as large as you can get and certainly a tenth of the annual rent, and keep it yourself. The agent will try to insist that he keeps it (and the year's interest on it).

But do not be persuaded. At the end of the tenancy he will want to solve any little domestic difficulties in record time - which usually means he's not too interested that your antique chair will cost £500 to recover when the tenant offers just £50. Agents also have their eyes on the company's next tenant.

If you've got the cash you get the job done and send the receipt to the company. It is a tough business.

Mary Griffiths

IF YOU WANT THE WORLD BUY IT FROM WARDLEY!

Wardley's International Growth Trust + 54% in the 19 weeks since launch*

The International Growth Trust Back in November 1986, when Wardley decided to relaunch their International Growth Trust (formerly the Wardley Natural Resources Trust) they did so for very good reasons. Market Movements Every year investors see some markets perform exceptionally well and others do badly. Over the last year the most attractive has been Europe, whilst markets such as Hong Kong and Singapore have performed with much less flair. In the long term, one can expect cyclical performance from any market but in the short term you need to check regularly that your money is invested in the right area. Investment Policy Our Managers set about creating a unit trust that could move around the world at will. And into any market, be it ordinary shares, fixed interest securities or simply hard currency. This policy has been put into practice with substantial gains after only nineteen weeks. In that time, investors who placed £1000 with the Wardley International Growth Trust have seen it grow to £1540 net of charges! Of course, this rate of growth cannot be guaranteed to continue and the value of units and income can go down as well as up. However, Wardley is confident that it will continue to invest in the right markets at the

right time - with all-out capital growth as the prime target. Current Tactics The International Growth Trust is truly international - we are currently invested (as at 1/4/86) as follows: USA 25%, UK 20%, France 18%, Sweden 9%, Japan 8%, Italy 7%, Germany 6%, others 7%. Wardley Around the World Wardley, with its extensive network of on-the-spot researchers and investment professionals, is particularly well equipped to buy the world. In Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, Melbourne and Singapore, Wardley offices continuously monitor and invest in their own markets - co-ordinated from our office in the City of London. Thus, when changes occur in far away places, we are ideally placed to react with great speed. Recently, the stockmarkets of Japan, Spain and interestingly the Philippines experienced some significant rises. Wardley's International Growth Trust reacted by buying into these markets with excellent results. Wardley's Pedigree We are a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, which has over 40,000 employees working in more than 1200 offices in over 50 countries. Truly International!

Application for Investment in the Wardley International Growth Trust. Includes fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Signature, Date, and checkboxes for investment preferences.

GENERAL INFORMATION Dealing in Units: Units will be bought at the ruling Offer price on any business day on which orders are received. Safeguards: The Trust is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and is a wider range investment under the Trustee Investment Act, 1981. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Management Company: Wardley Unit Trust Managers Limited, Reg. No. 1218845 England, Registered Office Wardley House, 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HN. A member of the Unit Trust Association. Income: The estimated gross current yield on 10th March 1986 was 1.4% per annum. Net income is distributed annually on 31st August. Charges: An initial charge of 3% is included in the price of units. Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries, the rates being available on request. An annual management charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the income (or capital, if there is insufficient income).



Walthamstow 9.00% NET = 12.68% GROSS. 60 DAYS' NOTICE SHARES. Withdrawals at 60 days' notice or on demand with 60 days' loss of interest. For investments of £500-£4,999 8.75% net = 12.32% gross*

OFFER CLOSES APRIL 30TH. 13% NET. GUARANTEED 1 YEAR SUNDING SOCIETY RETURN. This is your last chance to invest in our highly popular Triple Bonus Bond (3rd issue) with your investment divided to secure a guaranteed one year return of 13% net on your account with one of the biggest Societies and the balance invested in a £400 million Managed Fund that has averaged 18% p.a. net since it started in 1977.

British TELECOM NEWS FOR INVESTORS ACT BEFORE WEDNESDAY APRIL 9. THE LAST CHANCE TO MAKE THE FINAL PAYMENT ON YOUR SHARES. Your payment for the last instalment on your British Telecom shares must be made no later than Wednesday April 9. If you have not already done so, act today to ensure that payment is received by the Government before 3.00pm next Wednesday. If you have not received a request to pay the final instalment, or if you have any questions about what to do, you are advised to ring the BT shareholder enquiry units on either of the following numbers: LinkLine 0345 010505 0345 010707. These LinkLine numbers enable you to call from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call. Investing for growth.

Handwritten note: 200 is 100

PERSONAL

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All classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone...

FOR SALE
RESISTA CARPETS
SPECIAL OFFERS
Woolworth Carpets Ltd.

RENTALS
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First-name happy birthday
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AUCTIONS & SALESROOMS
ROMANA DEBY WOOD
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FURNISHED 3 room flat
2/1 in St. James Park...

FLATSHARE
FURNISHED 3 room flat
2/1 in St. James Park...

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
MUSICIAN'S original played
Grand, 1926, refinished 1981...

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LOST CERTIFICATES
In respect of letters & new...

APRIL SHOWERS
APRIL SHOWERS bring low low
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SWISS COTTAGE
Swiss furnished flat
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OLD VINEYARD
OLD VINEYARD
Furnished flat for rent...

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
MUSICIAN'S original played
Grand, 1926, refinished 1981...

ANIMALS & BIRDS
LINCINNERS
downy/young/young...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS
FIRST LIST OF COUNTY
Magistrates for 1986...

SUPPOSED FLATS & HOUSES
Fully furnished flats for rent
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A new development of
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THE HIT MUSICAL
THE HIT MUSICAL
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DAVID FINLAY
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RUGBY LEAGUE
Cautious Halifax
happy to be on
the home straight

By Keith Macklin

With their final three fixtures
all at home, Halifax sit out
tomorrow's league programme
secure in the knowledge that
the championship is within their
grasp.

Widnes travel to Featherstone
to face a side who are fighting
against relegation. Featherstone
could have been spent on
ground improvements.

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BOWLS
The game
springs
into life

By Gordon Allan

Two contrasting events in
the next three days reflect the
growth and variety of the indoor
game. One is the Denny Cup,
the national club championship
of England, first held in 1935.

The other is the inaugural
Midland Bank world pairs
championship.

The semi-finals of the cup
now called the McCarthy and
Stone championship, are being
played at the Morrison Centre,
Darlington today, with the final
tomorrow.

Longmeadow (Hampshire) play Stanley (Durham)
and Paddington play
North Walsham (Norfolk) at
Longmeadow, Stanley and
North Walsham were founded
within the last 10 years, during
which more than 50 new clubs
were opened, but Paddington
started in 1905 and have won
the cup five times.

Longmeadow, who beat Cyphers (Berkhamstead),
the favourites, in the quarter-finals,
have been strengthened by the
arrival during the past 12
months of Jim Hobbay and
Graham Standley. They provide
an extra layer of experience at
club, as does Andy Ross, a
former English and British Isles
singles champion. Seven of the
North Walsham team, including
the brothers Chris and David
Ward, played for Norfolk in the
county championship final the
Sunday before last.

The £40,000 world pairs
championship starts at the
Bournemouth International
Centre on Monday and ends on
April 13. The semi-finals are
being used and each player will
be using two woods instead of the
usual four. David Bryant and
Tony Allcock, who came second
in the world outdoor pairs at
Aberdeen in 1984, are one of the
three England pairs competing.
Bryant played last at Aberdeen;
this time he will skip.

Peter Sanders, the 1985
Winterthur wheelchair victor, who
has turned professional, scored his
first success this season in
winning the recent Eastbourne
to London race. His team, the
Percy Hilton-Condor squad,
has been increased to six. In
late May they and five other
professional teams will be riding
in the Milk Race. There is an air
of optimism in the professional
ranks with a record number of
events scheduled.

John Tonks, King of the
Mountains winner in Lancashire,
has been training in the
South African sun. Keith Reynolds
is also training in South Africa.
A successful sortie in France and
Paul Curran has been winning events.
Curran has been approached to
turn professional but he is
looking to the Commonwealth
Games.

With nearly £800 at stake in
prizes, Cees de Nooyer, of The
Netherlands, will be intent on
improving on his fourth place
last year. He is 103 on the
programme. The Danes have
won the event three times and
have entered the experienced
Willy Baer rider Vagn
Schalling, Belgium and France,
who have yet to win it, will have
strong UK opposition.

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GRAND NATIONAL FIELD

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301 2111ZF ESSEX (Hun) (J Cuba) V Chaloupka
302 000412 CORBIERE (C-D) (B Burrough) Mrs J Pitman

RACING: RECENT EVENTS POINT TO THE HORSE WHO WAS GOING LIKE A WINNER BEFORE FALLING LAST YEAR
Stand by West Tip and Dunwoody

By Mandarins (Michael Phillips)

West Tip has been my fancy for this year's Grand National, sponsored again by Seagram, ever since he ran so well before toppling over on landing over Becher's Brook second time around 12 months ago. I shall always believe that he was going like a winner then. And I know that his rider Richard Dunwoody also thinks that he would have won, because West Tip was almost running away with the race at the time of his disaster, so easily was he going.

"Perhaps, on reflection, he was going too well and I got there too soon", was Dunwoody's recent, useful comment when we discussed his prospects, which he rates equally good this year given better luck. And three things have happened of late to convince me that WEST TIP can compensate his followers this afternoon. First, he has struck form at precisely the right moment with a good confidence-building win at Newbury a fortnight ago. Second, Beau Rager, the horse that beat that day, has just given his form an almost unbelievable boost by beating Wayward Lad and Very Promising here on Thursday.

On the same day, Dunwoody himself received the perfect shot in the arm when he won the Whitbread Trophy over the Grand National fences on Glenree. So his confidence will be sky high. But will West Tip, following that fall a year ago? That is the crucial question which only another trip around Liverpool will answer. Dunwoody clearly has no qualms and nor do I. Having never taken my glasses off him for a second in either of his last two races, I am inclined to agree that his fall last year was a one-off. Each time his jumping was a perfect blend of brilliance and safety and I will be disappointed if his dexterity proves vulnerable again.

I will also be disappointed if he is not good enough to win with only 10st 11lb on his back. For he is a good horse who stays really well and I reckon that the ground will suit him, too, because it was much the same when he won at Newbury recently. So, there my case rests. What now of the dangers? Corbiere, Hello Daody and The Tsarevich are the three that I take to fill the places. In my opinion, no short list is complete without Corbiere, the winner in 1983 and placed third in both subsequent runnings. Clearly he does not know Aintree. And contrary to what his trainer, Jenny Pitman, says the handicapper has not been hard on him because he will be meeting



West Tip, who has been heavily backed after returning to his best form at exactly the right time

Last Suspect and Mr Snuggit, last year's winner and second, on 14th and 10th better terms. Corbiere has 11st 7lb to carry this afternoon. In his last three ventures to Aintree he has carried 11st 10lb; 12st and 11st 4lb. Hello Dandy, the victor two years ago, was a faller at the first fence last year. Trained by Gordon Richards, who also won with Lucius Halo Dandy is thought to be at his peak now following a good win at Ayr four weeks ago. He will also be in the ground. Another likely to be in his element is The Tsarevich, a 10-year-old with a touch of class capable of winning the Midway Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham for the past two seasons. As a 2 1/2 mile specialist around park courses there must be a doubt about him lasting today's marathon trip at Aintree.

However, those who fancy him can draw confidence from the achievements of both Gay Trip and Specify who were cast in a similar mould. But when all is said and done the National is basically a stayers' race even on good ground and I think that the long run-out could prove The Tsarevich's undoing if he is still in contention jumping the last. The history of the National is littered with fairytale at the end of the day I reckon that West Tip's recovery from a near fatal collision with a tory-tail scar is still only too apparent - it is more likely to appear than the life of Essex behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia.

There was a time when I would have considered Drumlargin a likely winner, especially if it was very soft underfoot, but those times have long since past. Second favourite a year ago he never really got into the race proper and he was eventually pulled up with a broken blood vessel. Kilklowen jumped these big fences brilliantly last year when he finished third in the Whitbread Trophy, but another circuit of the course confronts him this time and the feeding is that his stamina will run out long before the end. On the other hand no distance is too far for last year's winner, Last Suspect. The question is will his temperament, which has always been suspect, survive the examination again, especially when the ground is likely to be faster than he really cares for. Door Latch is a good jumper, who has been competing with the best this season. But he is only eight years old and I cannot help but wonder whether such a searching test as this is not coming a year too soon. On the handicap, though, he has much the same sort of chance as West Tip, so I cannot put anyone off backing him.

Having finished second in the race twice and fourth once, Greasepaint boasts a record that is almost as good as Corbiere's. My feeling is that he has had his chance, but he will relish the good going, whereas I am sure that Ballinacurra Lad would like it much softer. The same comment applies

to last year's runner-up, Mr Snuggit, who was bought recently by Terry Ramsden, one of the more flamboyant owners of today. Classified and Northern Bay are others to have changed hands recently. As a result of deals struck only this week they now both belong to the Cheveley Park Stud. Last year they enjoyed differing experiences. Classified finishing fifth, Northern Bay falling at the second. They are also totally different types. Classified being in the 2 1/2-mile mould, Northern Bay an out-and-out stayer. This season Northern Bay's form is entwined with that of Knock Hill, another to have proved himself over four miles or more. Supporters of Broomy Bank will be hoping that this is a case of third time lucky. These days he seems either to win or finish unplaced with no in between. Having won the Foxhunters' Chase over the big fences two years ago, Gay Warning is in the Spartan Missile category. He missed all of last season, but ran respectably in his first and only race this year at Kelso recently.

Plundering, from Fred Winter's stable, would have been on my shortlist but for that rather indifferent performance at Newbury 15 days ago. A close fourth in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown two seasons ago, he has always been seen as a good ground National horse by his immensely experienced trainer, who is one of few men to have both ridden and trained the winner of the great race.

Imperial Black and Rupertino finished sixth and seventh in the race 12 months ago. They will exceed if they do better this afternoon. In an attempt to win the race for a fourth time, Tim Forster, the Letcombe Bassett trainer, will be saddling Forst Suspect, I find it significant that Dunwoody asked to be excused the ride on Port Askaig so that he could partner West Tip instead, but then horses have made fools of humans before and it could easily happen again in this of all races. Graham McCourt, the man called upon to deputise for Dunwoody on Port Askaig was certainly in brilliant form on Thursday when he landed a 179-1 double, so Lord Chelsea's 11-year-old will have the best possible assistance from the saddle. And remember Forster has done it before with 40-1 and 50-1 outsiders, besides his well-financed winner, Well To Do, who started at 14-1. Forster will emulate the late and great trainer, Fred Rimell, if either of his runners wins this afternoon and triumphs for a fourth time.

The National dates from 1837, and in the early days took place over fields and farmland at nearby Maghull. The Duke, who won the first two runnings, jumped 40 fences and took "about 15 minutes" to get round.

Weld's old faithful may have his day

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

The confidence of Dermot Weld in the ability of Greasepaint to win the Grand National at his fourth attempt after three honorable failures was brightened when the ground started to dry out yesterday afternoon and when he saddled his four-year-old, Dark Cavalry, to ride the veteran gelding as Aintree with cosmopolitan ease. Greasepaint fits well into the category of tried and true Aintree performers, having finished second to Calico in 1980, to Halo Dandy and fourth to Last Suspect in the last three runnings of the race. It is perhaps a little odd to reflect that in the period covered by these three game efforts, Greasepaint has managed to win only one small race. That success was a very vital one at the Transire New Year's Day meeting, for he had failed there too. He would have had no other opportunity of qualifying for today's race.

Hopes for \$8m O'Brien colt

All through the winter Weld has had only one race in mind for Greasepaint and he struck an extremely optimistic note yesterday evening about the way in which he has come through his preparation. The faster ground will, on the other hand be against Drumlargin and Monanore. The former broke a blood vessel in his race last year and nowadays has lost a lot of speed, but Monanore has certainly improved considerably since the beginning of the year. Kilklowen should certainly jump around but his stamina is just suspect.

A to Z guide to the 40 big-race contenders

- ACARINE: Has lost his sparkle in recent races, but would have an each-way chance on last season's good form. Robert Stronge has given up the ride on Rupertino to partner Acarine, who is suited by soft ground and forcing tactics.
ANOTHER DUKE: Having leapt the 13-year-old just 10 days ago, Desmond Lynam, the BBC's anchor man, will be hoping to see him produce a grandstand finish. Ran well at last year's Cheltenham Festival and is one of the better longshots.
BALLINACURRA LAD: Won Embassy Chase final two years ago when trained in Ireland, but then lost form until joining Martin Pipe this season. Like Nicky Henderson's pair, he is best at 2 1/2 miles, but has a touch of class.
BALLYMILAN: Trained under permit near Leamington by Felix Sheridan, this genuine stayer is a half-brother to the 1993 third, Yer Man. Won well at Newbury a fortnight ago and is good value at 50-1.
BROOMY BANK (-:-:-U): Deserted by stable jockey, Paul Barton, in favour of Fethard Friend, so John Edwards has secured the season's leading rider, Peter Scudamore, for what he believes to be the best of his trio. Unlucky in running last year following fair effort in 1984.
CLASSIFIED (-:-:-): Bought on Wednesday by the Cheveley Park Stud, Classified has had a much lighter preparation than 12 months ago when he finished fifth. Represents See You Then team of Steve Smith Eccles and Nicky Henderson, who will be praying for a drying wind for both his runners today.
CORBIERE (-:-:-): The nearest thing we have seen to Red Rum this decade, but mercifully treated by the handicapper. Despite this, Corbiere is sure to run his usual game race and is likely to be the most popular each-way choice.
DOOR LATCH: Unlike his popular 91-year-old owner, Jim Joel, Door Latch has youth on his side. Beat West Tip handsomely at Ascot and Haydock, yet is likely to start a better price. Tipped by John Francoome to win a National one day and Josh Gifford has already proved he has what it takes with Alderley.
DOUBLEUAGAIN (-:-:-): Has not won since 1982 and is unlikely to end that appalling run today. Ampled round two years ago, but his jumping has deteriorated since.
DRUMLARGAN (-:-:-P): Should be topweight today on all known form, having finished third to Burrough Hill Lad in 1984 Gold Cup and won the Whitbread the previous year. Jumped well last year until breaking a blood vessel and 40-1 looks over-generous for one of his proven class.
DUDE (-:-:-F): Fell at nineteenth last year after leading for first half of race and making several jumping errors. Has recently joined Red Rum's trainer, Donald McCain, but seems unlikely to complete, let alone win.
ESSEX: Trained in Czechoslovakia, bred in Hungary and with Russian and Venezuelan blood lines, Essex will add great colour to the occasion. Coach loads of supporters from his homeland have travelled to watch this first run Currian runner for 25 years. His trainer, Vclav Chaloupka, injured his hand on a stable door on Thursday, but will ride come what may.
FETHARD FRIEND (-:-7P): Surprisingly chosen by stable jockey, Paul Barton in preference to Broomy Bank. Second in 1982 Irish National and seventh to Halo Dandy here two years ago when trained in Ireland. Has had only one race since October so will strip fresher than most.
GAYLE WARNING: proved his ability to jump these fences when winning 1984 Foxhunters - a race Gritter landed on way to winning 1982 National. Genuine and acts on any going.
GREASEPAINT (2:-2): Like Corbiere, a highly perennial, but must have fast ground. With Drumlargin, Monanore and Kilklowen also in field, Greasepaint leads one of strongest Irish challenges in recent years.
HALLO DANDY (4:-1F): Reunited with his regular jockey, Neale Doughty, who won on him two years ago, Halo Dandy has had perfect gentle build-up. His first fence error 12 months ago was most uncharacteristic and he is better handicapped now than for two years. Acts on any going, but is best on good ground.
IMPERIAL BLACK (-:-U6): Donald McCain's first string is without a win for 27 months, but finished a fair sixth last year. Has changed stables twice since and that is hardly the perfect preparation.
KILKLOWEN: Jumped the National fences brilliantly when third in last year's Whitbread Trophy under 12 st. But his trainer, Jim Dreaper (son of Arke's trainer, Tom Dreaper) has voiced doubts about his stamina.
KNOCK HILL: An american-owned horse has won five times in the last 22 years and Peter Thompson has a fair chance of joining the owners of Sen Nevis, L'Escargot, Highland Wedding, Jay Trump and Team Spirit on the roll of honour. Has won twice over four miles this season and finished second in Whitbread Trophy last year, handling these fences well. A chance first ride for Mark Dwyer.
LANTERN LODGE: Has already won a National - the slightly less celebrated Guinness Kerry National at Listowel in 1984. Lightly-raced since and now partnered by Tony Mullins, who lost ride on Gold Cup winner, Dawn Rua, to John O'Neill.
LAST SUSPECT (-:-:-): Made many scribes, myself included, eat humble pie last year and I do not fancy a second helping. Brought out of retirement by Anne, Duchess of Westminster (Arke's owner), Last Suspect could not have been more impressive in his two Chepstow wins. Connections are likely to be doing a rain dance about now.
LATE NIGHT EXTRA: Has failed to get round three times this season - hardly the right credentials for a National hopeful. Leading amateur Tim Thomson Jones will need to draw on all his experience to survive.
LITTLE POLVEIR: The outsider of John Edwards's trio, but no forlorn hope. Won good trial at Sandown last season and returned to form right on cue at Ludlow last week.
MASTER TERCEL: Now trained at Newmarket by David Thom, Master Tercel was bought out of John Spearing's stable for only 1,900 guineas, which could prove a bargain. This well-bred winner of six races showed he can jump these fences when fifth in last year's Whitbread Trophy.
MONANORE: One of only five horses trained by veterinary surgeon, Bill Harney, in Co. Tipperary. Possibly the No. 1 hope of the Irish, who have not scored since L'Escargot 11 years ago. Acts on any ground but best in the mud.
MOUNT OLIVER: His trainer, Michael Scudamore, won the race as a jockey on Oxo in 1959, but the inconsistent Mount Oliver seems unlikely to provide him with further National glory.
MR SNUGGIFT (-:-2): Was having his ninth race of season when second 12 months ago, carrying 17lb more than his long handicap weight. Has had much lighter preparation this time and is handicapped to take revenge on Last Suspect. Mick Easterby has proved his ability to get a horse spot-on for a big race with Lochner (champion sprinter) and Mrs McCarty (1,000 Guineas) so do not be put off by his poor early form this season.
NORTHERN BAY (-:-F): Trained at Ashby-de-la-Zouch by Tom Bill, who has remarkable record at Cheltenham Festival and Aintree meetings. Northern Bay won twice over four miles or more last season and is most consistent. Best on fast ground.
PLUNDERING: Has not produced his best for two years, but would have a sound chance if reproducing form which saw him finish close fourth in Whitbread Gold Cup. His trainer, Fred Winter, has already ridden two winners (Sundew and Kilmore) and trained two (Jay Trump and Anglo).
PORT ASKAIG: The second string of Tim Forster who would equal Fred Rimell's post-war record of four training triumphs if either this one or Last Suspect were successful. Richard Dunwoody would be red-faced if Port Askaig won as he has given up the ride to partner West Tip. Consistent and stays well.
RUPERTINO (-:-7): After early mistakes, ran a hinder last year to finish seventh. Has been tenderly handled this season and is an outsider with distinct each-way possibilities.
SOMMELIER: Will be ridden for the first time by Tom Taffie, whose father, Pat, won on Quare Times and Gay Trip. This dur



Mick Easterby and Phil Tuck, trainer and jockey of last year's runner-up, Mr Snuggit stayer has always looked a National type and is well suited by soft ground.

ST ALEZAN: Usually makes the frame, but has not won for almost 2 1/2 years. This race is likely to come at the wrong end of a busy season in which he has already run 10 times. Has never won on soft ground.
TACROY (-:-12F): His owner, Alf Duffield, has backed this horse to win a small fortune in past Nationals, but even this supreme optimist is unlikely to risk another big gamble as his 12-year-old has shown no worthwhile form for more than 15 months.
TEN CHERRIES: Unlikely to add to the Rimell tally of four Nationals. A good hunter, chased last year, but yet to recapture that form this season.
THE TSAREVICH: Basically a 2 1/2-mile horse with a touch of class - the same credentials as Gay Trip had when winning in 1970. A Cheltenham Festival winner last season and this, but a newcomer to these formidable fences. Goes well for John White.
TRACY'S SPECIAL: Had leg trouble last season and has yet to recapture excellent form of 1983-84. Local bookmakers could take a "lad", Tracy Glover, is a Liverpool girl. Not a lucky race for the Turnbull family to date.
WEST TIP (-:-F): Will probably start favourite for second year running. Still going well when falling at Becher's second time round last year and returned to form at Newbury two weeks ago. However, that was his seventh race of the season against good opposition - an unnecessarily demanding schedule in my view.
WHY FORGET: Placed in the last two Scottish Nationals, but yet to tackle these fences. Sound early-season form and the mount of Ridley Lamb, who was beaten just half a length on Sebastian V in 1978. One of the best of those without Aintree experience.
YOUNG DRIVER: A first National runner for John Wilson, and this useful ex-Irish chaser is weighted against Halo Dandy's recent Ayf running. His jockey, Chris Grant, will be hoping for a change of luck as he failed to complete in 1983 and 1984 before finishing last 12 months ago.
FINAL VERDICT: 1. Mr Snuggit; 2. Last Suspect; 3. Hallo Dandy; 4. Northern Bay.
*Where horses have previous Grand National experience their three-year record is listed in brackets.
Phil McLennan



Gordon Richards and Neale Doughty, responsible for 1984 winner, Halo Dandy

Saturday Weekend television and radio programmes Sunday

Edited by Jane Henderson and Peter Davall

BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University Materials processing: metal: 7.10 A Question of Control: 7.35 Physics: 8.00 Work and...

TV-AM

- 6.55 Good Morning Britain: News with Kay Sirley at 7.05. Weather at 6.25, Sport with Mike Horn at 7.15: 7.30 The Wide Awake Club with Tommy Boyd, Arabella Warner and James Baker...

ITV/LONDON

- 8.25 No 73 Ethel's zany house with Amazulu appearing and video of it in his honor: 11.00 BMD: Sweet Grand final: 11.30 Secret Valley...



Nick Grace and the Spitfire he has rebuilt: The Perfect Lady, a TVS documentary, is on Channel 4 at 7.30pm

BBC 2

- 6.50 Open University Mapping in the Yorkshire Dales 7.15 Music: 7.40 Language Development 8.05 Science in Class 8.55 Wagona Procession and the Madrigal of San Blas...

CHANNEL 4

- 1.05 Within the Coral World the Great Barrier Reef the largest structure built by living organisms (r): 2.00 Film: Vice Versa (1947)...

BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University Technology: 7.10 Computing: 7.35 Testing Infants: 8.00 Oceanography: 8.25 Stereochemistry: 8.55 Play School: 9.15 Knock Knock about God's wide world (r): 9.30 The Life of the Day Catriona Healy, a member of a Roman Catholic women's community, the Grail...

TV-AM

- 6.55 Good Morning Britain Thought for a Sunday: 7.00 The Little's: 7.25 Are you awake Yet? songs, jokes and cartoon: 7.35 Cwac Cwac: 7.50 What's News: 8.10 Pick of the Week: 8.27 News Headlines: 8.30 Jonathan Dimbleby on Sunday...

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Wake Up London: The Vicous Boys. Andy and Angelo fencing: 9.35 Woody and Friends cartoons: 8.45 Roger Rabbit second cartoon. Matched: Workshop in Industry Year 1986 the Church's involvement with the people is exemplified by the Cornubian Association of St Anthony of Padua (Oracle): 11.00 Getting On magazine programme for pensioners: 11.30 Once a Thief...? New documentary series in which Marcel Berlins explores crime and our attitude to it in Britain today: 12.00 Weekend World: Brian Walden talks to Northern Ireland Secretary, Tom King as the Minister backs against the Anglo-Irish agreement groups: 1.00 Police Officer Shaw Taylor helps Scotland Yard with appeals to the public: 1.15 The Smurfs friendly little blue people (r): 1.30 Small Wonder new comedy series about a robot named Vicki: 2.00 News headlines followed by Enquirer: Alan many years of humane materialism Anthony Bridson turned to Christianity and is now Dean of Guildford: 2.30 The Big Match highlights of FA Cup semi-finals: 2.30 Hart to Hart adventure with millionaires: Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers and their lives-in-help (r): 4.30 Seal Morning from the book by Rowena Fare, set in a remote part of Britain in the Thirties. Jane Lapotaine as the aunt, welcoming her niece: 5.00 Allon Market: There's a place at the altar with a shock for Derek (Oracle): 5.30 Benson: You can't give it away, comedy: 6.00 Butsey: 6.30 News: 6.40 Highway Harry Scambe visits Glasgow Green and the People's Palace, with Morag Mackay and Kenneth McKellar: 7.15 Catching up on a show for two contestants: 7.45 Film: The Medusa Touch (1977) Richard Burton plays a man with a supernatural power, not necessarily in the interests of society: 9.45 News: 10.00 Spritling image: Fluck and Law's cruel and apt images tell the news: 10.30 The South Bank Show: Melyn Bragg introduces Hal Prince who talks about directing musicals: West Side Story, Cabaret, Evita and Sweeney Todd among them, Glittering studio audience asks questions: 11.30 News headlines followed by Missp and Lucia Geraldine McEwan, Frunella Scalls apparently lost as she though dear Nigel Hawthorne keeps the home fires burning (r): 11.30 The Sky at Night: Patrick Moore enthuses about Leo and Virgo and points out the last chance for Comet-watchers: 11.50 Weather: 12.25 Night Thoughts:



Oleg Rudnik and Tommy Lee Jones: Double Image (BBC 2, 10.05pm). Alan Jones and Jeanette MacDonald (Channel 4, 2.00)

BBC 2

- 6.50 Open University Mathematical functions: 7.15 Biology: 7.40 The Gun Industry: 8.30 Potatoes: 8.55 Tin 9.20 Cogs in the Wheel: 9.45 Real exponential functions: 10.10 Art 10.35 Light: 11.00 Open Forum: 11.25 Society: 11.50 Maths: 12.15 Limestones: 12.40 The Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution: 1.05 Engineering mechanics: 1.30 Beneath Scotland: 2.99 Rugby Special: John Pinner Special Cup semi-final: 3.00 Film: Les Demeurettes de Rochefort (1966) Music by Michel Legrand; the young legions in question are Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac as twin sisters joining a troupe of dancers; they meet Gene Kelly and George Chakiris: 5.00 Tribute to the late Sir Peter Pears: archive film from 1964 of Peter Pears and Benjamin Britten, including some of Britten's songs (r): 5.30 The Million Pound Bird: Book David Attenborough calls of John James Audubon, famous American ornithologist (r): 6.30 The Money Programme on its twentieth anniversary: the programme looks 20 years ahead to megabanks; Valerie Singleton on 'Finance Garden' (r): 7.15 Nature: the calm and migrant birds: 7.50 The Royal Ballet in Romeo and Juliet by Kenneth Macmillan, composer of Prokofiev's Alexandra Petri as Juliet and Wayne Eagling as Romeo, introduced by Richard Baker from Covent Garden (r): 10.05 Film: Double Image (1986) A Cold War tale based on fact: a KGB major defects in February 1964, 3 months after Kennedy's death; a CIA mole is suspected: 11.40 Closesdown:

CHANNEL 4

- 1.00 Irish Angle - Hands looks at bee skep making: 1.30 The Making of Britain Christopher High points out that Reformism evolved slowly in British Christianity: 2.00 Film: The Firefly (1897) Jeanette MacDonald as a Napoleonic spy, Alan Jones sings the Dionysus Serenade: The Little Birds Spanish film about two canaries and their owners (r): 4.20 The Little Birds Spanish film about two canaries and their owners (r): 5.00 News Summary and highlights followed by Channel and her World: Coco Chanel born in 1883 opened her first boutique in Deauville, and began designing the comfortable simple clothes she liked to wear including a new fabric: jersey: She designed for Cocoau, Diaghilev, Jean Renoir and Alain Resnais. Her love-life was no less glittering: Stravinsky and the Duke of Westminster amongst others. After the war she was investigated for collaboration, since she had lived with a senior German officer. Since her death Karl Lagerfeld has taken over the Chanel house: the film shows three of his collections: 6.15 The Two Faces of a Canadian: the final of the two hundred year old sport invented (apparently simultaneously) by the Scots and Canadians, with commentary by Brian Alderman: 7.15 Littlebridge Sir Peter Scott's Wild Fowl Collection: Forty years old; a collection of 200 birds from all over the world is on view to the public in the River Severn wetlands and each year wild swans and geese return for winter refuge and to breed: 8.15 Our Bomb - the Secret Story: John Barry, former Sunday Times journalist, looks at the subject of Britain's bomb, investigates the bomber's plan to buy the American Trident and questions politicians, civil servants, diplomats and admirals to give a clearer picture of an embargoo subject: 10.15 The Twilight Zone: Another two tales of the supernatural: first A Young Man in a Fancy, honeymoon couple return to a house which retains its 1936 decor and the spirit of the bridegroom's childhood. Then The Living Doll: 11.15 Curing more of the ice-sport from Canada: 12.15 Closesdown:

Radio 4

- On long wave, VHF stereo variations, see end of Radio 4 listings: 6.55 Shipping: 6.00 News Briefing: 6.10 Today's Agenda: selected by Michael Ford (a) 6.30 News: Farming Today 6.50 Prayer for the Day (a) 6.55 Weather: Travel: 7.00 News: 7.10 Today's Papers: 7.15 On Your Own: 7.20 News: 7.30 Inclusive with Rosemary Harris: 7.50 Down to Earth: Weekend gardening: 7.55 Weather: Travel: 8.00 News: 8.15 Sport on 4: Includes a look ahead to the Grand National to be run this afternoon: 8.48 Breakaway: Bernard Fall presents a practical guide to rock-climbing: 8.57 Weather: Travel: 8.00 News: 9.50 News Stand: Auntie Stevens reviews the weekly magazines: 10.05 Talking Politics: with Jonathan Small: 10.30 Loose Ends: with Ned Sherrin and his studio team including Angela Landon and Matt Coward: 11.30 Correspondent: Life and politics abroad, reported by foreign correspondents: 12.00 News: Money Box: 12.27 Take Me to Your Leader: Tim Bewley: 1.00 News: 1.10 Any Questions? with Marcus Fox, MP, Angus Ross, Claire Brooks, Claire Brooks, from Wakefield in Yorkshire: 1.15 Shipping Forecast: 2.00 News: 2.15 The Storytellers: a series of seven dramatized stories (1) 'Candide' by Voltaire, with Martin Taylor, Bennett Wilson, Alan Bennett and Helena Brack (a) 3.00 News: International Assignment: BBC correspondent's report from around the world: 3.30 The Saturday Feature: The Black (Othello): A portrait of the tragedian Ira Aldridge, with Eric Fry Evans as the actor: 4.15 Programme: In the final programme of his series, Dr Alan Murray explains how healthy eating is a question of balance: 4.45 The Fosdyke Saga II: Series based on Eric Fry Evans's cartoon strip (a) 5.00 The Living World: Naturalists answer listeners' questions (a) 5.25 Week Ending: 5.55 Shipping Forecast: 5.55 Weather: Sports: 6.00 News: Sports Round-up: Stop the Week with Robert Robinson and his music guests: Sue Cason provides the musical interludes: 7.00 Saturday Night Theatre: The Wedding of Sirgammer: with Robert...

Radio 3

- Baluy: Andrea Murphy and Mark Kingston. Dramatized by David Wade (a) 8.00 Radio 3: Richard Baker with records: 8.30 Thriller: Murder, mystery and suspense: Paul Daneman: 8.50 Judgment in Stone: by Ruth Rendell: 8.58 Weather: 10.00 News: 10.15 Shipping Forecast: 10.30 The Mischief Makers (new series): The first of five programmes about children and mischief: This week, Margaret Howard traces the tragic life of Sarah Corvo-Frulla, a pianist-musique who was also a writer of non-fiction as well as being a man who had a sexually disordered life. With readings from his works by Alec McCowen, and contributions from Julian Symonds, Donald Weeks, Peter Luke and Margaret Howard: 11.00 Science Now: Peter Symonds reviews: 11.30 Bodger, Banika and Spatula: Comedy series (a) 12.00 News: Weather: 12.35 Shipping Forecast: VHF (available in England and Wales only) except 8.55-9.00am weather: 8.55-9.00am Weather: 9.00-9.30am The Music Makers (new series) Edward Sackerson meets the best of British (1) Sarah Walker (a) 9.30-9.45 Literary Wakes: A walk around Gramercy to find out about Dorothy and William Wordsworth: 9.50 Landscapes of the Night: Dreams and dreaming: 1.55 Shipping Forecast: 2.00 News: 2.15 The Storytellers: a series of seven dramatized stories (2) 'Candide' by Voltaire, with Martin Taylor, Bennett Wilson, Alan Bennett and Helena Brack (a) 3.00 News: International Assignment: BBC correspondent's report from around the world: 3.30 The Saturday Feature: The Black (Othello): A portrait of the tragedian Ira Aldridge, with Eric Fry Evans as the actor: 4.15 Programme: In the final programme of his series, Dr Alan Murray explains how healthy eating is a question of balance: 4.45 The Fosdyke Saga II: Series based on Eric Fry Evans's cartoon strip (a) 5.00 The Living World: Naturalists answer listeners' questions (a) 5.25 Week Ending: 5.55 Shipping Forecast: 5.55 Weather: Sports: 6.00 News: Sports Round-up: Stop the Week with Robert Robinson and his music guests: Sue Cason provides the musical interludes: 7.00 Saturday Night Theatre: The Wedding of Sirgammer: with Robert...

Radio 2

- (Nutsacker belt suite), Cantolube (Three Songs) of the Aveugles: Kati Te Kanawa, Grainger (Green Bushes), Granadeo (Lament, or Beauty and Nightingale: Alicia de Laroccha), Gioacchino (Cowper's time and Country Dance), Vaughan Williams (Wagtails) 8.00 News: 8.05 Record Review: Includes a guide to recordings of the 1950s. Includes: Liszt's piano concertos, and a review of the new Barncorn recordings of the Mozart piano sonatas: 8.15 News: 8.20 Mozart: Sonata in D, K 284a: also Sonata in C, K 545 and Liszt works including Les Cloches de Genes played by Barncorn (piano), and Bach's Capriccio in B flat, BWV 99: 8.30 News: 8.35 Sport: Pritchard with Rodney Friend (Molins), William Loughran (Molins), Gareth Binson (pumpet), Works by Barber/Violin Concerto and Dances in a Colour Symphony, LEO New: Early Music: Network: 1.05 Critics' Forum: topics to be discussed include the BBC production of Coral fan club, the film Absolute Beginners, and the Anthony Powell novel The Fisher King: 6.35 Volca of the Whales: Lantana play the work by George Crumb: 7.00 Scottish National Orchestra: Andrew Barnert, with Peter Serkin (piano, Rossini) (Samaritans overture), Messiaen (Partielle), Mozart (Piano Concerto No 19), Mussorgsky (Pictures from an Exhibition): 8.30 Horowitz Blues: Philip Lantana reads the story by Nigel Service: 8.45 The Lodge: Phyllis Tate's two-act opera. Cast includes Robinson, Johanna Peters, Joseph Ward, Alexander Young and Marion Studtholme: BBC recording made in 1984: 11.00 News: 12.00 Closesdown. VHF only: 4.00 Periman and 5.00 The Kitchen: Requests with Peter Clayton:

Radio 4

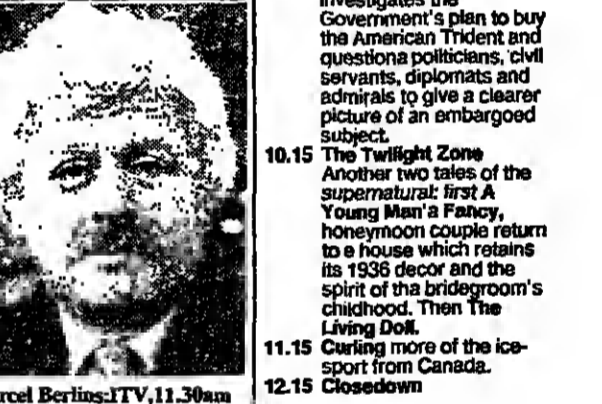
- On long wave, VHF stereo variations at end of Radio 4: 6.55 Shipping: 6.00 News Briefing: 6.10 Today's Agenda: selected by Michael Ford (a) 6.30 News: Morning News: 6.55 Weather: Travel: 7.00 News: 7.10 Sunday Papers: 7.15 Apsa Hl Ghar Samajh: 7.45 Belts: 7.50 Turning Over New Leaves: 7.55 Weather: Travel: 8.00 News: 8.15 Sunday Papers: 8.15 Sunday: (Presented by Roy Kinnear) Specials for the Week's Good Cause: 8.55 Weather: Travel: 9.00 News: 9.10 Letter from America by Josie Cook: Meaning Series from Caversham Baptist Free Church: 9.15 The Archers: Omnibus edition: 11.15 Pick of the Week: presented by Ian Siddons (a) 12.15 Desert Island Discs: Michael Parkinson talks to Arthur Halden (a) 12.55 Weather: 1.00 This World This Weekend: News: 1.55 Shipping Forecast: 2.00 News: Gardeners' Question Time: 2.30 The Afternoon Play: The Wind in the Willows (a) by Christopher Fry. With Nigel Hawthorne and Sarah Badel (r) (a) 4.00 News: The Food Programme: Derek Cooper examines the biggest inland fish market in the world - Billingsgate: 4.30 The Natural History Programme: The Victorian fern fish and African tile: 5.00 News: Travel: 5.05 Down Your Way, Brian Johnston visits Mold, Chwyd: 5.50 Shipping: 5.55 Weather: 6.00 News: 6.15 Weekend Woman's Hour: Highlights of the past week's programmes: Travel: Lord of Misrule: The battle for the lordship of a Welsh valley in the mid-18th century (a) 7.30 The Ministry in Britain: and the Evil Eye. Peter Hogarth talks about the role of mythical beasts in medieval society: 8.00 The Ministry in Britain: Christopher Frayling proves that the Great American cowboy is alive and well: 8.30 The Ministry in Britain: (2) The Paired and the Press: 9.00 News: The Evening Play: The Great Feast (a) by Robert Sherrin. With Zia Mohyeddin (a) 9.58 Weather: 10.00 News: The Sunday Feature: A World of Their Own: Bert Toth talks to the mother of an autistic child: 10.15 The Ending of the Day: The late evening:

Radio 4

- On long wave, VHF stereo variations at end of Radio 4: 6.55 Shipping: 6.00 News Briefing: 6.10 Today's Agenda: selected by Michael Ford (a) 6.30 News: Morning News: 6.55 Weather: Travel: 7.00 News: 7.10 Sunday Papers: 7.15 Apsa Hl Ghar Samajh: 7.45 Belts: 7.50 Turning Over New Leaves: 7.55 Weather: Travel: 8.00 News: 8.15 Sunday Papers: 8.15 Sunday: (Presented by Roy Kinnear) Specials for the Week's Good Cause: 8.55 Weather: Travel: 9.00 News: 9.10 Letter from America by Josie Cook: Meaning Series from Caversham Baptist Free Church: 9.15 The Archers: Omnibus edition: 11.15 Pick of the Week: presented by Ian Siddons (a) 12.15 Desert Island Discs: Michael Parkinson talks to Arthur Halden (a) 12.55 Weather: 1.00 This World This Weekend: News: 1.55 Shipping Forecast: 2.00 News: Gardeners' Question Time: 2.30 The Afternoon Play: The Wind in the Willows (a) by Christopher Fry. With Nigel Hawthorne and Sarah Badel (r) (a) 4.00 News: The Food Programme: Derek Cooper examines the biggest inland fish market in the world - Billingsgate: 4.30 The Natural History Programme: The Victorian fern fish and African tile: 5.00 News: Travel: 5.05 Down Your Way, Brian Johnston visits Mold, Chwyd: 5.50 Shipping: 5.55 Weather: 6.00 News: 6.15 Weekend Woman's Hour: Highlights of the past week's programmes: Travel: Lord of Misrule: The battle for the lordship of a Welsh valley in the mid-18th century (a) 7.30 The Ministry in Britain: and the Evil Eye. Peter Hogarth talks about the role of mythical beasts in medieval society: 8.00 The Ministry in Britain: Christopher Frayling proves that the Great American cowboy is alive and well: 8.30 The Ministry in Britain: (2) The Paired and the Press: 9.00 News: The Evening Play: The Great Feast (a) by Robert Sherrin. With Zia Mohyeddin (a) 9.58 Weather: 10.00 News: The Sunday Feature: A World of Their Own: Bert Toth talks to the mother of an autistic child: 10.15 The Ending of the Day: The late evening:

Radio 3

- On medium wave, VHF stereo variations as indicated: Office of Compline: The Lucky Country: Heather Payton on the economic experiment which Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke embarked on when he came to power in 1983: 12.00 News: Weather: 12.35 Shipping: VHF (available in England and Wales only) except 5.55-6.00am weather: Travel: 7.00-8.00 Open: University: 7.00 Maths: Transforming Graphs 7.20 18th-century Political Prints 7.40 Technology: Beyond Electric Money 4.00-5.00pm Options: 4.00 The Mind in Focus: 4.50 Newer the Same Again: 5.00 Brainwaves: 5.30 Get by in German: More radio, plus Regional TV, on facing page:



Marcel Berlins: ITV, 11.30am

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD begins TONIGHT ON ITV starring JASON CONNERY as the woodland freedom fighter and JUDI TROTT as Maid Marion ANOTHER EXCEPTIONAL DRAMA FROM HTV

SPORT

England form takes heavy toll at the gate

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

England kept themselves in the fourth Test match, sponsored by Cable and Wireless, here yesterday by picking up the wickets of both West Indian openers before lunch, taken at 72 for 2. Embury found that for him, as well as for the faster bowlers, the pitch had something to offer, and the bounce was again inconsistent. Greenidge departed to a ball that never left the ground.

Play began before the smallest crowd I have seen anywhere in the world for the second day of a Test match. I doubt whether there were 2,000 people present. Last Monday, for the one day international, the ground was full.

England's poor showing in the Test matches is starting to take a heavy toll at the gate, and although Botham bowled an admirable first spell Thomas,

who started the bowling with him, conceded six fours in his first three overs, the first of which Gower, at wide mid-on, should have stopped. With so few runs to play with England needed a much tighter opening than this.

Both Haynes and Greenidge looked in punishing form until first Greenidge began to limp and then Haynes took a knock on the finger from Foster, which needed repairs. Par for this pitch must be at least one battered finger a day.

Though less green than on Thursday it was still mettlesome. By noon on another steamy day Greenidge was not only hobbling, he was taking pills and wearing a short sleeved sweater. He had also passed 5,000 runs in Test cricket and lost Haynes, well

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First innings

G A Gooch c Richards b Garner	14
N Y Robinson c Marshall b Garner	10
D J Gower c Dujon b Garner	47
O B Smith c Greenidge b Patterson	47
P R Doreen c Garner b Marshall	10
J E Embury c Haynes b Marshall	10
J G Thomas not out	20
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 1, nb 2)	20
Total	208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-28, 3-31, 4-122, 5-124, 6-151, 7-182, 8-181, 9-198.

BOWLING: Marshall 22-4-71-2; Garner 19-3-54; Patterson 10-3-51-1; Holding 14-4-32-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings

C G Greenidge not out	62
O L Haynes c Botham b Foster	25
R A Richardson not out	31
H A Gomes not out	10
Extras	1
Total (for 3 wickets)	109

*V A Richardson, P J Dujon, M O Marawan, R A Harper, R A Wood, A P Patterson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-72; Uppesala: C Comberbatch and S Mohammed.

Kiwis face finalists

Colombo (Reuters) - The New Zealand cricket team arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday to take part in an invitation limited-overs tournament against the two finalists of the Asia Cup, now being held in Colombo.

The New Zealanders will play Sri Lanka today and Pakistan on Monday. Pakistan and Sri Lanka qualified for Sunday's final after Bangladesh, the third team in the Asia Cup, lost both their games. India, the current Asia Cup champions, withdrew from the tournament.

New Zealand are being led by the opening batsman John Wright in the absence of four regular members of the side - the captain Jeremy Coney, the all-rounder Richard Hadlee, the wicketkeeper Ian Smith, and the opening batsman Bruce Edgar. However, the presence of the Crowe

brothers, Jeff and Martin, Ewen Chatfield, Martin Sneddon and John Bracewell, and the promising newcomers Ken Rutherford and Bruce Blair still give the side a formidable look.

The Sri Lankans produced with an impressive bowling performance in their match against Pakistan but their batting cost them the game. The local side displayed better form against Bangladesh and the Kiwis, fresh from their home series triumph over Australia, could have their hands full tomorrow.

The match also will serve as a good test for both sides who are likely to meet again in the inaugural five nation Australasia Cup which begins in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, next week. India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka will play in Sharjah.

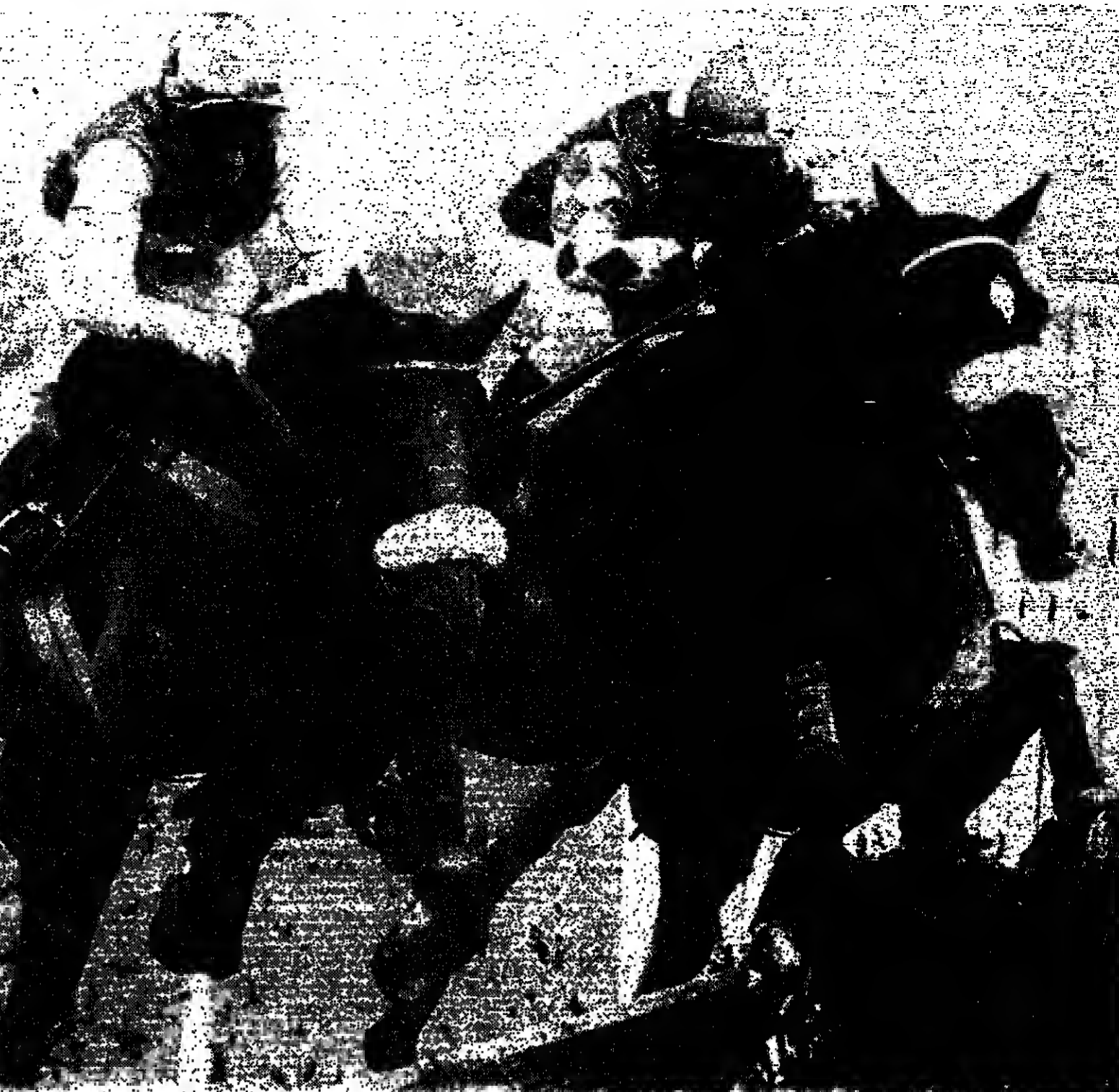
caught at second slip by Botham off Foster. Foster had just replaced Botham and he greeted Richardson by beating him twice outside the off stump.

Since Thomas had come off after his three costly overs England had made runs very much harder to get. Botham's first eight overs yielded only 12 and when Embury came on, with the crowd breeze blowing from cover point, he dropped straight into the groove and found some turn around the right hander's leg stump. Whereas the first half hour of the morning had brought 31 runs, only 38 came in the next 90 minutes.

Port of Spain (Reuters) - A Trinidadian businessman yesterday filed a High Court motion against seven English cricketers who toured South Africa.

Elen Shand, who is also a journalist, claims the presence of former opener Boycott plus Gooch, Embury, Willey, Taylor, Ellison and Smith, is prohibited under the Trinidad and Tobago Immigration Act.

Irish deliver the old one-two



The Irish, who have five runners in today's Grand National, warmed up for the main attraction by sending out first and second in the valuable Glenlivet Hurdle at Liverpool yesterday. Dark

Raven (pictured right), the season's leading four-year-old hurdler, extended his unbeaten sequence to four when he withstood the last-flight challenge of his compatriot, Raretylo, to take the £20,000 event. Dermot

Lautern Lodge and Monanore. Apart from Dark Raven's impressive success, yesterday's other highlight was the victory of Caroline Beasley, who became the first woman to win a race over the Grand National fences when she

partnered her own horse, Elligarty, in the R.E.A. Bott Foxhunters' Chase.

Photograph: Ian Stewart

Racing, pages 36 and 37

GOLF

Hot-shot Lyle in front

Sandy Lyle found himself at the top of the leader board in the Greater Greensboro Open yesterday. After an opening round of 68, he maintained his impressive challenge at Forest Oaks with a six-under-par 64 to finish on 132.

With six birdies in the first 15 holes belooked every inch the Open Champion. It mattered not whether he used his driver or his one iron for the effortlessly fired ball way beyond those of playing partners George Archer, the

1969 US Masters Champion, and Gil Morgan.

At the ninth, which measures 572 yards, Lyle's solid drive found the heart of the sun-baked fairway and, with 270 yards still to negotiate, he powered the three wood shot to within 10 feet of the hole.

He missed the chance of an eagle, but Lyle had earlier eased his putting anxieties. In fact, the offending implement, with which he has spoiled many chances this season was not even required at the third

where he holed a delicate chip from 30 feet for his first birdie. Then, at the fifth, he left himself with a tap-in following a superb approach from 145 yards.

At the seventh he holed from 25 feet during a sequence of five threes in six holes.

A "hot" putter will be essential at Augusta, where the US Masters will unfold next week. Lyle has surprisingly never managed a top ten placing in an American tour event - his best effort is a tie for 13th in the Tournament of Champions this season.

The prospect of a Lyle victory gathered momentum as he confidently holed a putt of 6 feet for another birdie at the short 12th. At that stage he was in the lead because American Leonard Thompson, the leader after the first round, had fallen back in spite of a good start to his second round.

Nick Faldo hit a second-round 68 for a total of 142.

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FOOTBALL

A pointed effort

By Clive White

With the Merseysiders otherwise engaged, Manchester United have the chance to close the gap, if only temporarily, on the joint leaders today by earning a point or three at Highfield Road. Coventry parted company with Frank Upton, their assistant manager, yesterday.

Chelsea, whose championship dream was shattered by a disastrous Easter, could start piecing it together again at home to Ipswich.

FA Cup previews, page 38

Aston Villa will have been cheered by the news yesterday that Mita Cypriot, their Japanese shirt sponsors, have agreed to extend their £125,000 contract for a further year. Canon, their rivals, withdrew their support of the Football League at the end of the season. "Major companies like ours who come here to win business should support and invest in the British way of life," Hiroshi Tomaya, their managing director, said.

Harkouk's call

The Notts County forward Rachid Harkouk has been selected for the Algerian World Cup squad, who play in the same group in the finals as Northern Ireland.

BADMINTON

Inhibited victory by Troke

From Richard Eaton, Uppsala, Sweden

Helen Troke, from Southampton, had to struggle harder than one would have liked before reaching the last four in defence of her women's singles title in the European championships here yesterday. She beat Eline Coene 11-4, 12-9 but appeared an inhibited figure, especially when the Dutch No 1 was leading 9-8 in the second game and was beginning to tie her up.

The win by Troke's semi-final opponent, Svetlana Beliasova, was more straightforward but more significant. By beating Maria Henning, the unseeded Swede, 11-8, 11-4, Beliasova became the first Soviet player to progress so far in a big badminton event. Acceptance into the Olympics last year is having its effect upon the sport.

The rest of the English singles contingent were beaten. The No 2, Fiona Elliott, went down 11-2, 11-4 to Kirsten Larsen, the favourite from Denmark, whose long arms and legs seem to move about the court at an ever-increasing rate; defeats for the national champion, Darren Hall, and the runner-up, Steve Butler, to Torben Carlsen and Michael Kjeldsen meant that Denmark, with all four semi-finalists, were bound to keep the men's singles title.

England's all-time record of five gold medals out of six, achieved in the last championships in Preston two years ago, is not beyond them.

Martin Dew, at the centre of much of the political rumpus, subsequently lost his men's doubles title, in partnership with Dipak Tailor.

They had a match point in the final game at 17-17 against Jan-Eric Antonsson and Per-Gunnar Johansson before losing 17-15, 4-15, 18-17 but missed their best chance when they served indifferently and lost a first-game lead of 9-2.

That allowed the crowd the chance to get behind their Swedish hero. Shuttle boxes, struck forcefully together, boomed the English to defeat.

Tailor, disappointed to lose Dew as his partner in the Thomas Cup later in the month, thus suffered another disappointment, although his performance often glittered with sharp-witted potential. The Kenyan-born youngster was beaten again soon afterwards by a Swedish mixed doubles partnership.

HOCKEY

Britain's hosts sweat

From Sydney Friskin, Karachi

Pakistan 1
Great Britain 1

Great Britain came close to beating an impressive Pakistan side in the first match of the eighth Champions Trophy tournament here yesterday. They had to settle for a draw before a crowd of 8,000. The teams had also drawn 1-1 in the previous tournament at Perth, Australia last November.

Even before James Duthie had given Britain the lead in the thirteenth minute their hosts looked unstable as Batchelor, Kerly and Leman found the route to goal more readily than they could have expected in the gruelling heat. Batchelor came close to scoring with a scoop across the face of the goal.

A free hit was awarded to Britain after the umpires had disagreed and it led to a splendid goal. The ball was lofted into the circle from the right by Potter and Duthie,

sprinting in from the left, beat the goalkeeper with an accurate volley. Pakistan's defence continued to falter and the more was the pity that Britain did not consolidate their position.

The Pakistan citadel could have fallen again in the 29th minute at a short corner from which successive shots by Barber and Leman were saved on the line by Qazli Mohib. A little earlier Pakistan had missed their first chance of equalizing when Hassan Sardar miscued in front of an open goal. Shortly before half-time Taylor made two saves at short corners.

Britain began the second half with two substitutions: Bhanra came in for Leman and Imran Sherwani for Duthie. Pakistan began to find their rhythm and troubled the British defence, who managed to repel several individual attacks.

As Pakistan continued to search for a goal they missed two chances. Farhat Khan

took an enormous swing and failed to connect. Then Hassan Sardar ended a brilliant run by shooting wide of the far post.

It was left to Pakistan's outside right, Qasim Khan, to set up the chance from which they scored. Hassan Sardar driving home his back-pass. But even in the closing minutes Pakistan were not free from trouble as Kerly and Batchelor continued to rush through open spaces.

In the remaining matches of the day West Germany beat India 3-0 and Australia, the holders, defeated The Netherlands 4-1.

PAKISTAN: Mohiuddin; Qazi Mohib, Nasir Ali, Abdul Rashid, Ayaz Mahmood, Naveen Akhtar, Qasim Khan, Saif Shauqat, Hassan Sardar, Farhat Khan (sub: Saibabz Khan), Wasim Perwez.

GREAT BRITAIN: Taylor; S Martin, P Barber, J Potter, R Dods, W McConnell, S Batchelor, R Leman (sub: K Bharu), S Kerly, D Faulkner, J Duthie (sub: Imran Sherwani), James R Lathrover (The Netherlands) and A Steiner (West Germany).

ATHLETICS

Harris can improve on record

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The Kodak AAA 10 kilometre championship, which begins just before midday today in Battersea Park, promises to be one of the best road races ever staged in Britain. Steve Harris, course record holder with 27 min 56 sec, and Steve Overt, beginning his move up to longer track distances, with Dave Lewis, the best all-round distance runner in Britain last year, face Mike Musyoki, of Kenya, the top road runner on the United States circuit, and Mark Nenow, holder of the world's best 10km time of 27:22.

Harris is the man in form, as befits someone who works for an express delivery service. He had an easy win over Lewis and Terry Greene, the revelation of the Newcastle City centre 5km a week last Wednesday. Harris also, won this race the last time he ran in 1983, beating Overt into fourth place.

A similar victory today would earn Harris £1,000 to go with his appearance money. But Overt's contention that his long winter training without racing may have left him rusty should not be taken too seriously. And Musyoki and Nenow will be the other interesting factors.

The Kenyan was first in 28:21 and the American third in 28:29 in the Santiago 10k two weeks ago, but this will be the first road race for both of them outside the United States.

Those Santiago times are a minute outside Nenow's world best for the distance. And he admits he is not running as well as when he did that 27:22 in the Crescent City Classic, in 1984. Harris may have to beat his course record to win.

Harris, Overt and Sebastian Coe, who is, "only jogging round" in the 3k fun-run beforehand, are all competing again in the Seven Counties 12-stage road relay on Wimbledon Common tomorrow. And Paul Davies-Hale, who could have upset everybody in the Battersea race has chosen instead to run the Digital Watches half-marathon in Reading, also tomorrow. He is favourite for the £1,000 first prize, and will earn another £1,000 for breaking the relatively soft course record, of 63:55.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Kelly aims for top

Sean Kelly, of Ireland, will be hoping to continue where he left off three weeks ago, when he won Milan-San Remo race in brilliant fashion, when the 180-mile Tour of Flanders begins tomorrow (John Wilcockson writes).

A new climb has been added to the already-challenging course. The Paterberg hill is only 376 metres long, but large cobblestones and a one in five gradient will provide a severe test. The main rivals for Kelly, who has already won 10 races this year, are expected to be Moser, of Italy, and Vanderaerden and Plackaert, both of Belgium.

Welsh cloud

England beat Wales 4-0 and drew 0-0 with Scotland at the start of the Home Counties schoolgirls tournament in Aberystwyth yesterday (Joyce Whitehead writes). In the first match of the day, Ireland beat Wales 1-0.

Wales expelled

The Brazilian Football Association have dropped Eder and Sidney, two left-wingers, from their World Cup party and Edivaldo, aged 24, who is uncapped, has been called up to replace them. Eder was sent off during last Tuesday's international against Peru after punching Castro, the right back, in the face and has been expelled from the squad as a disciplinary measure. Sidney has suffered a hamstring injury and will not practice before the end of the month.

Soundness talks

Graeme Soundness, Scotland's World Cup captain, confirmed yesterday that he is to have talks this weekend about his future with Sampdoria, the Italian club. Soundness has one more year of his contract remaining and it is believed he may return to England as a player-manager.

Paragon alone

Paragon, the 60ft British trimaran skippered by Mike Whipp, scored a significant victory yesterday (Barry Pickthall writes). She not only beat the best French multihull fleet in class two at La Trinite but secured line honours ahead of the leading 80-footers in the second of a series of Grand Prix races.

Record breaker

Stephen Hendry, the 17-year-old Scottish champion, made snooker history yesterday when he defeated Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, 10-9 to become the youngest-ever player to reach the Embassy World championships at Sheffield.

Intriguing tie

Two distinguished 74-year-olds meet in an intriguing real tennis match at Cambridge tomorrow when Jack Davies, president of the MCC and the ICC, plays Clary Pell, the former US seniors singles champion, in the world amateur over-60s championship (William Stephens writes).

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